

remembered for his caring and candid demeanor as he worked to serve local communities, his county, as well as his country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.  
WILLIAM ANTHONY ANDERSON

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. William Anthony Anderson, Sr., whose sudden passing on March 9, 2024, has deeply saddened our community. Mr. Anderson's journey, characterized by dedication, service, and compassion, has left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Born on July 12, 1962, in Blue Springs, Mr. Anderson's commitment to public service was evident from the outset. He served at the Union County Sheriff's Office for over a decade before assuming the role of chief of police for the city of Verona, where his leadership and dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues and the community. Anderson was appointed as the assistant police chief at Northeast Mississippi Community College in late 2014. His commitment to the safety and well-being of the students led to his subsequent appointment as police chief on July 1, 2021, succeeding Chief Randy Baxter.

Mr. Anderson was a pillar of support for the students, embodying the values of service and protection. His passion for ensuring the well-being of the students was evident in his actions, from organizing car inspections to late-night safety walks.

A man of faith, Mr. Anderson was a dedicated member of Ecru Second Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, embodying his commitment to serving others both within and beyond the law enforcement community.

Mr. Anderson's legacy of service, dedication, and compassion will forever be cherished by those whose lives he touched. He leaves behind a community grateful for his unwavering commitment to duty and his enduring impact on the lives of many.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Anderson was a loving husband to his wife, Connie Smith Anderson, and a devoted father to their three children, Anna, Ebony, and William Jr., who followed in his father's footsteps in law enforcement. He also cherished his role as a grandfather to Kydwn and Fallyn.

May Chief Anthony Anderson rest in peace. His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING CARSON ROSS ON  
HIS RETIREMENT AS BLUE  
SPRING'S MAYOR

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to honor the lifelong public service career of Mr.

Carson Ross, who has served as the mayor of the city of Blue Springs since 2008. Mr. Ross will be retiring as the first African American Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri. Mr. Ross's dedication to public service is truly exemplary.

Before he began his distinguished career, Mr. Ross was a graduate of Bradley County High School, attended the University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, and later received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rockhurst University in 1977. He began his career as a public servant in 1981, when he was elected to the Blue Springs Board of Aldermen where he served Districts 2 and 3 for eight consecutive years as Alderman and one year as Mayor Pro Tem. To further grow his expertise and leadership skills, he went on to serve on the Legislative Branch of the State of Missouri and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives to represent the 55th District. Under this capacity, Mr. Ross served for a total of 14 years in Missouri's House of Representatives and as a testament of his abilities as a leader, served as the Republican Whip in 1991 through 1992.

As a result of his work ethic and dedication to serving his community, Mr. Ross was recognized as one of Kansas City's most influential African Americans by the Kansas City Globe in 1995 and 1996. Furthermore, his influence and impact did not go unnoticed when he received the Outstanding Legislator Award in 1996 by the Missouri Federation Grand Order of Pachyderms and the 1997 state award by the Kansas City Globe as the Most Influential African American.

Beyond his role as a legislator, Mr. Ross worked with Hallmark Cards after having an illustrious career of 39 years with the company, where he held various positions. Additionally, he has served the city of Blue Springs in various capacities outside of Mayor through his participation on various boards including as Chairman of the Blue Springs Personnel Board, President of St. Mary's Medical Center Board of Associates, a founding member of Summit Bank of Kansas City Board of Trustees, among many more.

As Mayor of Blue Springs for sixteen years, Mr. Ross focused on ways that he could better his community and his selfless spirit of service is displayed throughout his career. His historical achievement of becoming the city's first Black Mayor serves as an image of resiliency and determination to break through barriers and lay the groundwork for future leaders. As children look towards future careers and occupations, they will know that they too are capable of being Mayor and a public servant, even if that means being the first to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Ross for his tremendous accomplishments, his commitment, and tireless community service. His immense impact will continue through the multitude of lives he has impacted. On behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish Mr. Ross great joy and relaxation in retirement as Mayor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE  
ONZLEE WARE

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Onzlee Ware, who passed away on February 10, 2024, at the age of 70.

He was born in North Carolina on January 4, 1954, to the late Onzlee McCrimmon and Edna Taylor.

While attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Onzlee was charged with possession of heroin and marijuana, but later had those charges dropped when he agreed to become a police informant. A year later, it was revealed in court that he was an informant. Because of that revelation, he was subsequently shot and critically wounded, eventually losing his left leg. This harrowing experience would shape the rest of his life and reinforce his belief in second chances.

He would later come to Roanoke to work with Boy Scouts of America, which is where we met. He eventually became a lawyer, and we became friends. Our friendship was first cemented while spending hours photocopying form files in my office.

We then served in the Virginia House of Delegates together, where I knew him as someone who would often reach across party lines to get things accomplished for his fellow Virginians.

In 2013, Onzlee helped then-Republican Governor Bob McDonnell pass his transportation plan.

After leaving the House of Delegates, Onzlee was appointed as a judge, serving in juvenile and domestic relations court. It was there that he used what he learned earlier in life to reach out to juveniles, telling them they could turn their lives around and be successful, just as he had become.

He later rose in the ranks to become a circuit court judge.

Onzlee Ware was a trailblazer. He served as the first Black legislator from the western part of Virginia and later the first Black judge in Roanoke Circuit Court. He made an impact on so many throughout his life, his legacy will live on for years to come. He was my friend. I will miss him.

UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY  
AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES  
ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this bill. Certainly, we can agree that federal agencies, like many large employers, need to reevaluate their office space requirements in response to more hybrid work options post-COVID.

But this is not a new endeavor for the federal government. This is something the federal government was doing for more than a decade before the pandemic.

When we passed the Telework Enhancement Act in 2009, federal telework participation was below 14 percent. By 2016, that number grew by more than 50 percent to 22 percent. During that intervening period, agencies created hoteling options, reevaluated office space needs, and even identified telework savings associated with reduced real estate requirements.

So again, this is not new territory for the federal government. What is new is the mindless and punitive approach Republicans have started to take towards agency decisions about workplace environments.

During the pandemic, Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, voted to require 100 percent of federal employees back into the office for full-time in-person work—a standard that did not exist even before the pandemic and one that envisions a 19th century workplace complete with hole-punched timecards.

Concurrently, they opposed my legislation, the Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act, to implement common sense workplace public health standards to protect federal employees during COVID and any future public health emergencies.

Their opposition is, as I said, mindless and punitive.

With this bill, House Republicans are at it again. This bill would establish an arbitrary requirement for agencies to dispose of property and leases.

It makes no accommodations for the workplace flexibility our federal agencies need, not just to compete for talent, but also to accommodate those with disabilities or military spouses whose employment would not be possible without hybrid or remote work.

This bill demagogues the issue of hybrid work at a time when we should be taking meaningful action to help the federal workplace remain competitive and productive.

I welcome the Administration's efforts to end pandemic era remote work postures while strengthening robust telework options for federal employees, which we helped create with the Telework Enhancement Act.

There is a way forward that helps agencies adjust to post-pandemic workforce needs, but this bill is not the solution and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

#### CELEBRATING THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF MARTIN COUNTY

**HON. DONALD G. DAVIS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a milestone that marks the passage of time and the rich tapestry of history and community woven into the fabric of Martin County. As the county's residents commemorate its Semiquincentennial, let us reflect upon 250 years of resilience, progress, and unity that have shaped the county.

The county's history begins with the Tuscarora, who first inhabited the region that became Martin County. They referred to the area as "Squhawky." The Tuscarora lived off the lush forest of present-day Martin County and used the Roanoke River as an important trade

route with other tribes in the coastal plain region. The Tuscarora migrated to other North Carolina and Virginia sites when the first English settlers began inhabiting the area in the early 1770s.

In the anxious year of 1774, Martin County emerged from annexes of Halifax and Tyrrell Counties, born from the tireless efforts of residents who sought a closer seat of county government. The county was named for the last Royal Governor of North Carolina, Josiah Martin. The county's name would later be used to honor Alexander Martin, a prominent Federalist of the Old North State. Incorporated in 1779, Williamston, the cherished county seat, earned the moniker of "Tar Landing," a testament to its pivotal role along the Roanoke River.

Throughout history, the county and Williamston have served as transportation centers for naval stores such as tar, pitch, turpentine, and other resources. The railroads of the 1800s and the highways of the 1900s continued to allow trade in the region to flourish.

The Roanoke River, a lifeline coursing through the county, has witnessed triumphs and tribulations, from its days as the "Moratuck" to the modern era where it beckons adventurers and anglers alike. Let us remember the floods of 1940, a catalyst for change that birthed the Roanoke River Basin Association and paved the way for progress in flood mitigation and environmental stewardship.

From the bustling heart of Williamston to the tranquil hamlets of Oak City, Hamilton, and beyond, our communities and municipalities stand as testaments to the resilience and ingenuity of generations past and present.

At Martin County's 250th anniversary, let us celebrate our past achievements and recommit ourselves to the ideals of unity, resilience, and progress that have defined the county. Together, let us continue to write the next chapter of the county's story, guided by the enduring spirit of those who came before us.

I wish a happy Semiquincentennial to Martin County. Here's to another 250 years of heritage, community, and boundless possibility.

#### UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2024*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023.

Once again, the Republican House Majority has brought forth a bill that would accomplish the exact opposite of its claims. This bill would create massive inefficiency by forcing the early termination of government facility contracts to meet an arbitrary and inflexible standard of occupancy. These contract cancellations would incur additional costs, result in massive staff relocations that are not paid for by this legislation, and severely disrupt the work of federal employees who are serving the American public. The end result would be a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, this legislation would override the work that agencies themselves are already doing to evaluate and update their federal space requirements. Instead, H.R. 6276 sets up a biased method of data collection that inaccurately assesses the needs of our federal workforce. It fails to count field workers—including Border Patrol agents, park rangers, and food safety inspectors—as full-time federal employees. It would ignore the significant challenges, and costs, involved in modernizing and reconfiguring historic buildings to increase occupancy levels.

My Democratic colleagues and I want to work with the federal agencies to collect accurate information and to fully understand the individual facility needs of each agency. Where opportunities to reduce space or improve its utilization exist, the General Services Administration already has the authority to act. As agencies adjust to the increased use of alternative and hybrid work schedules, they are examining opportunities for consolidation and other ways to efficiently and effectively achieve their missions. This thoughtful and necessary work would be swept aside by a clunky and misguided mandate in the USE IT Act.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 6276.

#### WENDY MOTTA, A REMARKABLE LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary public servant, Wendy Motta, who has dedicated her career to serving the constituents of the 24th Congressional District with unwavering commitment and tireless effort. As we bid farewell to Wendy, we reflect on her distinguished service and the indelible mark she leaves on our community.

Wendy Motta's journey in public service spans decades, including previously serving in the office of my predecessor, Congresswoman Lois Capps. Throughout her tenure as Senior District Representative, Wendy demonstrated an exceptional ability to address the diverse needs of our constituents, tackling crucial issues ranging from agriculture and veterans' affairs to infrastructure and environmental stewardship. Her tireless efforts have made a lasting impact on the lives of those she helped.

One of Wendy's most remarkable contributions was her dedicated work in responding to natural disasters and emergencies. Her leadership during those challenging times provided solace and support to our community, showcasing her resilience and dedication to the well-being of the people she served. Wendy's proactive approach and swift response in times of crisis set a standard of excellence for public service in our district.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Wendy Motta is the epitome of a devoted family person. Married to Silvio Motta, she has been a loving partner and a source of strength for her family. Wendy and Silvio have been blessed with two wonderful children, Caio and Carina, who undoubtedly have been inspired