

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES
"RANDY" SMITH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of James "Randy" Smith, who passed away on March 12th, at the age of 79. Mr. Smith dedicated his life to public service and the well-being of Virginians.

Mr. Smith was born in Martinsville, Virginia on March 7, 1945. He graduated from Martinsville High School.

His interest in further education led him to Randolph-Macon College and the University of Virginia's School of Law. Upon graduation from the University of Virginia, Mr. Smith began a legal career in Martinsville City's Commonwealth's Attorney office. He served as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney before being elected as Martinsville's Commonwealth's Attorney, through which he served many terms. His masterful development as a legal mind earned him praise from his community, who often referred to him as a walking codebook.

His outstanding service to the Commonwealth would continue under the administration of Governor Jim Gilmore, where Mr. Smith was appointed to work for Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation, as well as the State's Charitable Gaming Commission.

Mr. Smith's love for his community did not wane. He returned to the Martinsville area, working as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Henry County for over a decade. Despite retiring in 2015, he still served in an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney's capacity when needed in Martinsville City, Henry County and Patrick County.

Mr. Smith was a man of profound faith who valued his lifelong membership in the Broad Street Christian Church. He also was a member of the Martinsville Rotary Club.

He is survived by his cousins, Dr. John R. Smith, Jane Clark Moorman and J. Hubert Smith, Jr.

RECOGNIZING MR. DON JOHNSON
AS A LIVING LEGEND

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Don "The Energizer" Johnson, an outstanding and dedicated leader in the South Dallas community. Johnson has dedicated his life to serving and uplifting those around him. As a member of the Dallas South Lions Club and founder of Welcome House, Inc., he has helped those facing difficulty to get the resources they need to acclimate back into society. For more than 50 years, Johnson

has set an example for all members of the community to follow.

As a founder of Welcome House, he brought much needed resources to those battling with alcohol, drug, and HIV/AIDS related issues. Johnson became the first African American president of the Past District Governors of Texas Lions and served in various roles in the Dallas South Lions Club, the Dalclif-Wynnewood Lions Club and associate member of the Duncanville Lions Club. Through the Lions Club he has served on the boards of Lions Youth Camp, Lions Sight and Tissue Foundation, Lions Club's Charities and many other Lions Club activities. He also serves on Duncanville's Citizens on Patrol program, the Duncanville Park Board, and chairman of the Welfare Board, Mr. Johnson has committed his life to being an active community leader. He is vocal about the issues facing our community and ensures that others know that their voice matters too. A member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Johnson teaches classes for deacons and elders, and is a mentor to youth in the community. Mr. Johnson is a family man, and is a proud father to six daughters, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, and a great-great grandfather.

We are indebted to the service that Johnson has provided to the South Dallas community and Texas' 30th Congressional District. I am proud to recognize such an extraordinary constituent who is the embodiment of faith, perseverance, and community. May we all strive to live a life of service like Mr. Don Johnson.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S
161ST RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 161st Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 24 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Depart-

ment have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 161st Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 161st Recruit Class:

Ramere S. Bethea
Andre M. Morris
Alex D. Bowers
Marshall E. Neel
Joshua L. Bright
Alex F. Padilla-Aguilar
Emilio C. De Leon
Colin J. Reilly
Ian S. Dingman
Jorge A. Reyna-Guzman
Alexander T. Eiben
Ahmad C. Richardson
Spencer K. Engel-Natzke
Dean A. Rocco
Cody W. Fischer
Jake L. Schoffelen
Angelo J. Gannon
Han E. Tak
Archie L. Haines
Nikita D. Timashev
Stephen J.D. Hayes
Christopher J. Venditti
Margaret E. Leatherland
Andrew R. Wilvert

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING THE KELLAM HIGH
SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Kellam High School Softball Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

• 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.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Kellam High School Knights were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Kellam High School Softball Team fought their way to victory, defeating their opponents in a close game ending in a three to two win, and defending their regional championship from last season, defeated their opponents in overtime, finishing the game eight to seven.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Kellam High School Softball Team on the Class 5 Region A Championship.

WISHING DR. FRANK WALERKO A
VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special 100th birthday to World War II and Korean War veteran Frank Walerko, M.D.

Born on July 28, 1924, Dr. Walerko embodies what it means to be a member of the "Greatest Generation." When the forces of fascism and tyranny threatened the peace, security, and freedom of millions upon millions of people throughout the world, Frank answered the call to serve. Frank served in the Navy during World War II, and later as a Captain in the Army Medical Corp during the Korean War.

President Reagan reminded us that freedom is fragile and must constantly be fought for and guarded by each generation. That noble mission is exactly what Dr. Walerko helped carry out when he wore the uniform of the United States Military. Because of the service and sacrifice of veterans, generations of Americans have been able to experience the blessings of liberty and live in a land that is free. For that, all of us owe Frank and his fellow veterans a debt that we can never fully repay.

In addition to his military service, Dr. Walerko holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Notre Dame, and his Medical Degree from the St. Louis University School of Medicine. He also established a family practice in Mishawaka and South Bend, where he met the specific medical needs of Hoosiers in our area.

As Dr. Walerko celebrates a century of life well lived, I Join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District and beyond in wishing Frank a very happy 100th birthday. I commend him for his loyal service and the many positive contributions he has made to the Second District and our country. May God bless Frank Walerko.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 346 (Dem Motion to Table on H. Res. 1344—Merrick Garland Contempt), and YEA on Roll Call No. 347 (Dem Motion to Refer to the Rules Committee on H. Res. 1344—Merrick Garland Contempt).

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. GERTHA LEE STEWART

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Gertha Lee Stewart on her 100th birthday. Gertha Lee Stewart is a venerable matriarch who has become the heart and soul of her large family, consisting of 250 members. Her wisdom and love have prospered generations, making her a cherished figure in their lives. Known for her incredible life story, Gertha Lee has been a beacon of strength and resilience.

A devout Christian, Gertha Lee's faith has been the cornerstone of her existence. She has spent countless hours in prayer and service, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. Her deep spirituality and unwavering commitment to her beliefs have inspired many in her community to find their own paths of faith and devotion.

Beyond her family, Gertha Lee is recognized as a pillar of her community. Her charitable acts, wisdom, and leadership have earned her the respect and admiration of all who know her. Whether organizing community events, supporting local charities, or simply offering sage advice, Gertha Lee Stewart embodies the spirit of kindness and community service, leaving an indelible mark in her wake.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Gertha Lee Stewart and her family as we congratulate her on 100 years of life. May she continually be a blessing and light to all who know her.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES VIENNA-OAKTON CHAPTER 1116

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 on its 55th anniversary. The Northern Virginia region is home to tens of thousands of federal employees and many retirees who have chosen to stay in the region. Throughout their careers, these dedicated civil

servants have given their time and effort to serve their fellow Americans, and NARFE has consistently provided them with coordinated support.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 is one of more than 1,600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 1116 was signed on June 3, 1969. At that time, the Chapter name was "Vienna," and ended up being changed to "Vienna-Oakton" in 2005. Four of the past presidents are still active in this chapter. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large. The Board members of Chapter 1116 work to uphold the association's mission and promote the education and welfare of area members and participate in the Virginia Federation of NARFE meetings and conferences.

This chapter's members support and contribute to Alzheimer's Research which had contributions of over \$16 million at the end of April 2024. Chapter 1116 members' contributions helped make Virginia Number One in the nation with a total of over \$37,000 contributed for the last fiscal year. The support of the Vienna-Oakton Chapter, and chapters throughout the country, is vital to the goal of a world without Alzheimer's or dementia.

The Vienna-Oakton Chapter is also very active in the community and has strong ties to civic organizations in the Vienna area. They are a member of the Vienna Business Association, which is the local Chamber of Commerce which promotes growth through professional development, networking, and marketing activities. Chapter 1116 is also active in the local American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, volunteering at the monthly breakfasts which raise money for scholarships and community activities for children at Easter and Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 for fifty-five years of dedicated service to Northern Virginia's federal employees. These individuals are the lifeblood of our federal government. I am grateful for their service and proud to represent such outstanding individuals. I wish them the best on their anniversary, and continued success in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COLONIAL WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the First Colonial Women's Tennis Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the First Colonial Patriots were able to bring the Class