

his retirement marking 25 years of incredible professionalism and service to his coworkers and community. His commitment to excellence in his role is to be commended, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Jennings here today.

Through considerable effort, innovation, and persistence, Mr. Jennings has helped foster an efficient and effective warehouse environment for associates at SpartanNash. He worked with cross-functional departments to coordinate distribution center operations while supervising the daily warehouse department in shipping, selection, loading, and storage. Mr. Jennings was also crucial in assisting with the training of SpartanNash teams during changes in procedure, and worked with warehouse leads to coordinate the day-to-day scheduling of associates. Our West Michigan Community is fortunate to have lived and worked alongside Mr. Jennings, who has made outstanding contributions during his time at SpartanNash.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Jennings on his retirement from SpartanNash. We commend him for his decades of service. I wish Mr. Jennings, a much-deserved, restful retirement surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia which is celebrating its centennial on March 28, 2025.

In 1925, a group of women met in Williamsburg, Virginia to form a Virginia state Division of the American Association of University Women. The women, mainly educators, resolved to work for an increase in funds for the state supported schools and a program for pre-school children.

In the 1930's, AAUW-Virginia worked to improve school curricula, promoted teacher training, fought for equal salaries for men and women teachers and for removing the discriminatory ruling against married women teaching in the public schools.

In the 1940's, members worked around travel restrictions from World War II. The number of local branches grew in Virginia, as the National organization worked to help women Axis and occupied nations escape to safety. AAUW of Virginia was active in promoting jury duty for women, a right granted in 1950.

In the 1950's when some schools were closed following federal court orders, AAUW branches in Virginia established tutoring groups as temporary substitutes, laying the groundwork for the organization's firm and courageous stand for the preservation of a statewide system of free public schools.

In the 1960's, AAUW of Virginia worked for compulsory school attendance and consistently opposed tuition grants to pupils in private, sectarian schools. The organization had long supported measures to protect and improve the legal status of women, and efforts increased during this decade.

In 1971 AAUW of Virginia voted to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In protest the organization moved its state convention outside Virginia to Washington, D.C., in 1981 and to Maryland, a ratified state, in 1982.

The fight for gender equality continued throughout the 1980's, as AAUW of Virginia again opposed the use of public funds for the male-only Virginia Military Institute and signed on as an amicus curia when the case went before the Supreme Court. In 1996, the Court ruled in favor of admitting women students.

In 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. The organization's support never waned.

In the new century, some of AAUW of Virginia's issues were the same, such as opposition to public education funds for private schools, and equality for all. Under the auspices of the AAUW National, the Virginia branches have worked for equal pay, including support for the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and fought to protect Title IX, as well as access to reproductive care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating AAUW of Virginia for 100 years as the Nation's leading organization for equity in higher education and women's economic empowerment. Cheers to another century of advocacy and civic engagement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 24th to March 28th of 2025 as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, which means longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

The AHEC program has already trained millions of health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank them all for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY INCORPORATED ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated on the historic milestone of 100 years of achievement and service. Since 1925, when Brother Earl B. Dickerson, the 5th Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi, appointed John Miller Markees as the first Eastern Province Polemarch, the province has exhibited the fundamental purpose of the organization achievement in every field of human endeavor.

As a proud member of the Hyattsville-Landover Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, I have seen first-hand the commitment to excellence, brotherhood, and the betterment of mankind exhibited by the Eastern Province. With 5 total regions, including all of Washington, D.C., Virginia, Bermuda, and Maryland, the Eastern Province includes over 100 undergraduate and alumni chapters, whose God-fearing and serious minded men have positively contributed to society and the fraternity for the past 100 years.

The Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated serves as an embodiment of the organization's core values and principles. Under the 30th administration of the province, I am certain that they will continue in the mission and ideals set forth by our illustrious founders. I congratulate them again on 100 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JIMMY LEE HOOKS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of one of my late constituents, Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. He was a decorated war veteran; devoted husband, father and grandfather; and American hero who exemplified duty, courage, and selfless sacrifice in service to the United States of America. Sadly, Mr. Hooks passed from labor to reward on November 5, 2024, at the age of 77 in Columbus, Georgia.

Born and raised in Plains, Georgia, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. was no stranger to hardship. After losing his mother at an early age, he developed a deep sense of resilience, family values, and an unwavering work ethic. He graduated from Sumter County High School in Americus, Georgia, in 1967. Shortly thereafter, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army. After enlisting, he married his high school sweetheart and beloved, lifelong partner of 54 years, Mildred Louise Hooks (Hubbard).

Private First Class Hooks' courage and valor were tested on the front lines of the Vietnam War, where he served as a Rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 23rd Infantry Division's 11th Infantry Brigade near

Chu Lai. He participated in over twenty-five aerial missions over hostile territory, earning numerous military commendations for his bravery and dedication, including two Bronze Star Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, and the esteemed Air Medal.

Among his many accolades, one honor stood out above the rest—the Bronze Star Medal with “V” for Valor. On April 24, 1971, while conducting a combat patrol near Tra Bong, his unit came under heavy enemy fire from North Vietnamese forces. In the face of imminent danger, Private First Class Hooks fearlessly rushed forward, exposing himself to intense hostile fire to provide accurate suppressive cover for his fellow soldiers. His actions were instrumental in preventing additional American casualties and securing victory in the engagement. His unwavering heroism embodied the highest traditions of military service and earned him the profound respect of his comrades and his countrymen.

Following 15 years of honorable military service, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. returned to Georgia and started a family. Together, Mr. Hooks and his wife, Mildred, raised 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He also had a beloved host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends who loved him dearly.

Though he returned home safely after the Vietnam War, Mr. Hooks continued to carry with him the invisible wounds and scars that can affect veterans following combat. A devout Christian, he answered a calling to help other veterans who struggled with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and service-related conditions by being deeply involved with Mind of Christ Ministries. He also held memberships in the Blind Veterans Association of Columbus and Disabled American Veterans, which demonstrates the strong ties he maintained within the local veteran community.

Despite the adversity he faced on the battlefield and throughout his life, Mr. Hooks remained a steadfast soldier at heart, instilling within his family the values of integrity, resilience, service and character. His dedication to his country and community extended beyond his years in uniform, leaving an indelible impact on all who knew him. Truly, Mr. Hooks embodied the highest ideals of military service on and off the battlefield.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. stood tall in the face of adversity, risking his own life to protect his fellow servicemembers and defend the freedoms we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, as Americans commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day this Saturday on March 29th, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me; along with the over 765,000 people of Georgia’s 2nd District, in honoring Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. for his bravery and his tremendous service and sacrifice on behalf of the American people; and in extending our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all those who mourn his loss.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
GERALD “GERRY” W. HYLAND

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerald “Gerry” W. Hyland. Gerry’s character and legacy were a testament to a life dedicated to service, leadership, and deep care for others throughout Northern Virginia and abroad. He was a natural leader who genuinely listened to those around him, always considering the needs of others before his own.

As a decorated Air Force Colonel, he exemplified discipline, integrity, and a strong sense of duty to both his country and community. His service extended beyond his military career, as he spent 28 years as the Mount Vernon District Supervisor, tirelessly advocating for his constituents and ensuring their voices were heard in the decision-making process. Gerry was a leader who truly listened, and his actions reflected his profound commitment to improving the lives of those around him.

His legacy is not just defined by his political achievements but by his deep connection to the community. Gerry’s instrumental role in closing the I-95 landfill, preserving Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, and revitalizing Lorton are among the many ways he made a lasting impact. His annual Town Hall meetings and Lobsterfests were a symbol of his dedication to keeping the community engaged and united. In his work with the Virginia Railway Express, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the National Association of Counties, Gerry continued to shape policies that benefited both the local and broader regions.

Outside of his public service, Gerry’s love for family and his 35-acre farm in Parksley, Virginia, where he nurtured the land, raised animals, and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, paints a picture of a man who valued balance, nature, and the importance of building strong, lasting relationships. His enduring love for his wife Carmen and his family—his daughter Gigi, siblings, and many nieces and nephews—showcase a man whose compassion extended far beyond his professional life.

Gerry Hyland’s legacy is one of a leader who dedicated his life to serving others, a community pillar whose legacy will be felt for generations to come. He leaves behind a profound mark on Fairfax County, a legacy of commitment, service, and the kind of leadership that will continue to inspire future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the life of Gerry Hyland—a man of deep compassion, humility, and unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and community.

REMEMBERING MR. ROY FAGAN
HODGES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to remember Roy Fagan Hodges,

who passed away peacefully on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Tippah County Hospital in Ripley, Mississippi.

Roy Fagan Hodges was born on November 9, 1924, in Dumas, Mississippi, to Lee and Inez Cappleman Hodges. He attended school in Wheeler and Baldwin.

During World War II, Roy served in the United States Army Air Force as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the Eighth Air Force. From 1944 to 1945, he flew 33 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. His deep faith in God sustained him through the war, and upon returning home, he married Eugenia Faye “Jean” Storey Hodges in 1946. Together, they raised two daughters and a son, sharing 65 years of marriage.

Roy was a devoted member of Dumas Baptist Church, where he faithfully served as a deacon. Beyond his church involvement, he made significant contributions to Tippah County communities in various capacities. He served as Fire Chief of the Dumas Fire Department and as an Alderman. Roy was instrumental in establishing, upgrading, and improving the fire departments and rural water systems county wide. He was also a proud member of the Southeast Tippah Lions Club and the American Legion.

After 34 years of service with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Roy retired in 1986. Even in retirement, his dedication to Tippah County continued as he served as Election Commissioner and Fire Coordinator. He also enjoyed raising cattle and gardening.

Roy is survived by his daughters Phyllis Hill (Wayne) of Tiplersville and Pat Rowland (Charlie) of Booneville; his son Danny Roy Hodges (Janet) of Baldwin; and eight grandchildren: Suzanne Shoup (Bryan) of Ripley, Barry Rowland (Michelle) of Amory, Christy Cagle (John) of Booneville, Brande Shackelford (Kevin) of Ripley, Allison Wood (Thomas) of Mantachie, Amy Smith (Shane) of Byhalia, Sam Hodges of Nashville, Tennessee, and Seth Hodges of Dumas. He also leaves behind twelve great-grandchildren: Trevor Shoup, Thomas Shoup (Olivia), Blake Rowland, Brayden Rowland, Ross Shackelford, Reed Shackelford, Ella Reese Shackelford, Clayton Wood (Anna Reed), Brooke Wood, Carly Wood, Leah Smith, and Taylor Smith; two great-great-grandchildren, Easton Wood and Olivia Wood; and his brother, Ben Hodges of Texas, a fellow World War II veteran who is 102 years old. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Additionally, Roy is survived by his wife of 10 years, Rachel Hodges of Ripley, and her children, Glen Michael (Lori), Franke Michael, and Penny Michael. He is also lovingly remembered by her nine grandchildren, Laken Green (Jake), Jonah Rinehart (Marleigh), Sarah Ann Michael, Mattie Bailey (Hunter), Cooper Rinehart, and Olivia Michael, as well as her five great-grandchildren.