

In a Congress where we often repeat the platitude that our budget reflects our values, it is disturbing that the main common value reflected is fiscal unsustainability ranging to irresponsibility. We need look no further than a mirror for the root cause: our collective inability to face the music of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. It is clear that we need additional help to focus our Nation on the specific issues and collective decision-making required to stabilize our budget.

To set us on some path to righting our fiscal ship, I have introduced the Sustainable Budget Act with my colleagues Congressmen Steve Womack, Scott Peters and Zachary Nunn. Our bill will create a National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, similar to other such commissions past, to serve this function.

The commission would consist of eighteen members split between Democrats and Republicans, and would be charged with proposing recommendations designed to achieve a balanced annual federal budget within ten years and meaningfully improve the long-term federal fiscal outlook. This commission would also include recommendations to address the growth in entitlement spending, which we all, regardless of our views on the issue, know is a key fiscal concern on its current track.

The commission's final recommendations would be due to Congress by no later than one year after the Commissioners are appointed. If the proposal is supported by at least twelve members of the committee, including at least four members of each party, it would receive expedited consideration in the House and Senate, which would have to vote on the proposal.

A commission process has been utilized in other times of fiscal uncertainty and has facilitated some tough, but necessary, discussion. It has been attempted before in the federal fiscal context through various commissions such as Simpson-Bowles, which came close to succeeding in restoring some fiscal discipline in Washington. There is no reason to conclude that it would not work here, and every reason to conclude that absent such an approach we will be in far worse shape far faster than followed previous attempts.

We clearly need help with our collective inability to confront this reality. My Sustainable Budget Act is at least a start toward a solution.

I urge this bill's prompt consideration and passage.

HONORING DIETRICH D. JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dietrich D. Johnson.

Dietrich D. Johnson was born on October 26, 1963, in Como, Mississippi. He is the fifth child of Minnie B. Boyd and Moses L. Frazier, having one brother and three sisters.

He attended West Crenshaw Elementary School, West Crenshaw Junior High School, and North Panola High School in Sardis, Mississippi. He later pursued higher education at Mississippi State University, where he studied Industrial Psychology and Computer Science.

Dietrich served in the United States Air Force and is now a disabled veteran. He was employed with Bridgestone Tire Company for 15 years, during which he served as Chief Steward for United Steelworkers Union Local 1055. He also held the position of Vice President of the Nashville Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. He is a graduate of the AFL-CIO Leadership Institute and served as a Trustee on the Nashville/Middle Tennessee Central Council Executive Board, as well as Supervisor of the Mississippi Delta Services Corporation. He is a member of the Community Census Redistricting Institute and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. Mr. Johnson has participated as a panelist at the Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference and the "Fighting Climate Change and Building the Clean Economy from the Bottom Up" conference.

At the request of Julius Harris, Dietrich returned to Mississippi to contribute to his community. Upon returning, he joined the Panola County Democratic Party and was elected as a voting delegate to the 2012 National Democratic Convention and to the Mississippi Democratic Party Executive Board. Previously, he served as the Election Commissioner for District 2 and collaborated with the USDA and Alcorn State University to provide technical assistance for sustainable farming practices. Dietrich established a family farm and later transitioned it into a sustainable farming operation.

Dietrich is an active member of Shiloh C.M.E. Church, where he serves as both a Trustee and Treasurer.

Dietrich is a seasoned public servant with 15 years of dedicated service to labor advocacy and community engagement. A skilled strategist and organizer, he possesses a unique ability to build strong relationships, foster collaborative solutions, and mobilize teams toward shared goals.

Dietrich's commitment to public service is further evidenced by his involvement in initiatives such as the Community Census and Redistricting Institute and the Tennessee Immigration and Refugee Rights Coalition. He has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of community needs and a strong desire to empower individuals and create positive change.

Dietrich has a strong passion for making a difference in the Panola County community. His ability to articulate a compelling vision and motivate others to action has made him an invaluable asset to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dietrich D. Johnson for his dedication in serving his community.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JEFF DAVISON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lt. Col. Jeff Davison, U.S. Air Force, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Over his two-decade long career in the Air Force, he embodied the courage, honor and commitment that make our military the world's premier fighting force.

Lt. Col. Davison had a distinguished career specializing in the F-111 aircraft, serving as a Fighter Pilot, Flight Examiner, Instructor, Test Pilot, and Air Force Exchange Officer to Australia. His leadership extended across various levels of the Air Force, including roles as Flight Commander of the 54th Fighter Training Squadron at Reese Air Force Base, Chief of Airspace at Randolph Air Force Base, and Air Force Reserve Commander at Reese Air Force Base. In 2004, Lt. Col. Davison took on the role of Director of Combat Operations for the NORAD Continental Region, where he managed all U.S. alert fighters and oversaw Presidential support. He earned numerous accolades, including three Top Gun awards and a Meritorious Service Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters.

After retiring from the Air Force, Lt. Col. Davison has continued to serve his community. He is an active member of the Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America since 2015 and served as president in 2022. Lt. Col. Davison volunteers for the Alzheimer's Association and continues to contribute to the Longest Day fundraiser. Guided by his faith, Lt. Col. Davison is an active member of First Baptist Church in Temple, and in 2019 became Chairman of the Committee on Committees.

Lt. Col. Davison leads with strength, integrity, and drive in each community he joins. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation, and I am proud to honor his outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING COLLIN MILLER FOR EXEMPLARY WORK AND DEDICATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Collin Miller for his exemplary work and dedication to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Roughly four years ago, Collin joined my staff as a Military Legislative Assistant, where he handled armed services and worked in Congress to support our troops. Utilizing his experience from the Department of Defense, Collin helped me introduce and push forward key bills, including the General Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorial Exchange Program For Polish-American Defense Cooperation Act, the Special Relationship Military Improvement Act to strengthen arms-sharing with the United Kingdom, and a congressional resolution and NDAA amendment to protect servicemembers from COVID vaccine mandates. Collin was a master of legislative strategy, adept at crafting impactful speeches and shepherding my bills through committee.

Within just a year, Collin's hard work and strategic expertise earned him a promotion to Legislative Director. He was instrumental in getting my Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act signed into law, a version of my SCREEN Act passed in the FY24 NDAA, and five of my bills included in the FY25 NDAA.

Collin's accomplishments will have lasting impacts on our Nation, and he did it all without asking for recognition. From his support for our farmers to his dedication to our nation's

veterans, Collin embodies the Volunteer Spirit. He even spearheaded my Congressional Resolution honoring the father of country music, Hank Williams, on his 100th birthday. Just like the “Hillbilly Shakespeare,” Collin dedicated himself to preserving the vibrant spirit of Music City.

Collin’s influence extended far beyond state lines. During his time in my office, Collin championed tuneless principles, recognizing that we stand on the shoulders of giants and understanding that conserving Western Civilization is a fight worth having. A steadfast patriot, he is a stalwart defender of liberty and our Constitutional principles.

Collin’s hard work, his passion for Article I, and his eagerness to learn were only a portion of what made his impact in my office and the House of Representatives so robust. His deep understanding of history and insights into conservative giants like Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher greatly benefited our team.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention Collin Miller’s admiration for the great J.R.R. Tolkien. Collin’s shelves lined with Tolkien’s books weren’t just for decoration—they were a well-worn source of inspiration. As Tolkien wrote, “It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succor of those years wherein we are set . . .” I believe Collin is doing just that.

While Collin recently departed my office for an incredible opportunity, I know that he will continue to bring the same light and joy into the lives of others as he did to me and my staff. We will miss his steadiness on difficult days and his quick wit.

I want to leave Collin with this quote from one of his favorite historical figures, William Wilberforce:

Fix your eye on the glorious prize which is before you, and when your strength begins to fail, and your spirits are well-nigh exhausted, let the animating view rekindle your resolution, and call forth in renewed vigour the fainting energies of your soul.”

I wish Collin all the best in his future endeavors as he and his wife, Reiley, go out and conquer this next chapter in their lives.

HONORING GORDON “GORDY” KIRK

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary man, cherished community member and dedicated veteran, Mr. Gordon Willis Kirk, affectionately known as “Gordy.” Gordy passed away on March 2, 2025, just three weeks shy of his 102nd birthday. He is preceded in death by his loving spouse Gwendolyn and their legacy lives on through their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Born in Helena, Montana, Gordy and his family moved to Saint Paul at the age of 10 for his father’s work with the Northern Pacific Railway during the Great Depression. He graduated from Saint Paul’s Marshall High School in 1942. Gordy is a product of Saint Paul’s Rondo neighborhood, a predominantly African American community, most of which was demolished to make way for Interstate 94

in the late 1950’s. Throughout his life, Gordy remained a tireless advocate for the Old Rondo neighborhood by keeping its history alive and seeking healing and reconciliation by preserving its rich heritage and culture.

Gordy was a proud veteran of World War II. Bravely serving in combat, Gordy became a Quartermaster with a trucking company, Third Army, Fourth Armor Division (Patton’s Vanguard) on the front lines in the European Theatre from 1943 to 1945 at a time when the ranks of U.S. servicemen were segregated. The company landed at Omaha Beach six days after D-Day, was with General Patton at Saint-Lô, fought at Verdun and the Battle of the Bulge where he suffered frostbite on his hands during the winter. He stated that he felt fortunate that he was in battle on the front lines and came home whole.

Gordy’s courage was demonstrated well before he was deployed to Europe. Following his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1943, he and his fellow enlisted men departed by train for basic training at Fort Wolter, Mineral Wells, Texas. While in route the train stopped at a station; the African American men were told to leave the Pullman passenger cars they had been traveling in and go to the Jim Crow car—with its much less desirable accommodations. He refused, as did other enlisted men. He and the men essentially said, “If we’re good enough to fight for our country like other enlisted men, then we’re good enough to ride in a Pullman car like they do.” The train was held up for six hours as the railroad located another Pullman car for the group.

Upon returning to Saint Paul, Gordy drove a streetcar from 1947 to 1952 until streetcars were replaced by buses. He then went to work on the railroad as a waiter. He next went to work for Braniff Airways as a skycap, joining Northwest Airlines in 1960 where Gordy has a long and successful career, eventually becoming the head skycap, retiring in 1993.

His extraordinary commitment to his fellow veterans and their families compares to none. As a long-time leader and advocate in Minnesota’s veterans community, Gordy became the first African American VFW District Officer in Minnesota in 1986. He rose through the leadership ranks of the Fourth District as well as the state and national VFW organizations—advocating for all veterans while seeking to bring diversity to the ranks of our state’s veterans organizations and ensuring that all veterans are welcome. Gordy was instrumental in establishing the Twin Star VFW Post 8854, which was located on Concordia Avenue in the Rondo neighborhood until 2008 when the hall closed, with Gordy serving as the Post’s Commander.

Until well into his 90’s, Gordy was a VFW Hospital Representative at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, acting as an advocate for veterans attempting to resolve issues experienced by veterans at the Medical Center. When once asked the question, do any special veterans and their cases come to mind, and his response was “every veteran is special to me!”

Gordy was very special to me and to the constituents of Minnesota’s Fourth Congressional District. It was my privilege to nominate Gordy for a Minnesota Humanities Center Veterans Voices Legacy Award which I presented to him on September 11, 2016, for his outstanding work in service to others.

It was an honor to call Gordy a friend. He has been an inspiration to me and his legacy

will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the dedicated work of Mr. Gordon “Gordy” Willis Kirk.

CELEBRATING ELIZABETH AND CHARLES J. MAJIKES, SR. 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of a beloved couple. I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Majikesa, Sr., of Ashley, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate this important milestone.

The couple was married in St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Creek Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre by the late Very Rev. Gregory Szeyko on Feb. 19, 1955. Mrs. Majtkes is the former Elizabeth “Betty” Chmil, daughter of the late Mary (Gulick) and John Chmil. Mr. Majikes is the son of the late Theresa (Hughes) and John Majikes. The Majikes’s are the parents of four sons, Charles J. Jr. and his wife, Mary, Larksville; Paul, Sr. and his wife, Ann, Hanover Township; John and his wife, Kim, Apex, North Carolina, and Matthew, Sr., and his wife, Linda, Richmond, Virginia.

They are proud grandparents of Kristen and her husband, Adam Scali, Hanover Township; Jacob, Gaithersburg, Maryland; Alison and her husband Bryan Riviello, Old Forge; Charles J. III, and his wife Kylee, Ashley; Keri and her husband Nick Carnes, Durham, North Carolina; Paul, Jr. and his wife, Alyson Klush, Richmond, Virginia; Mark and his wife Adele, Larksville; Matthew, Jr., Richmond, Virginia, and Daniel, Richmond, Virginia. Also, great-grandchildren Charles IV, Jack, Charlotte, Alex, Joe and Preston.

Mrs. Majikes is retired after working in the shoe industry and as a waitress in local restaurants. Mr. Majikes, a USMC Korean War Purple Heart Veteran, was employed at Eberhard Faber in Mountain Top for more than 30 years and continued employment at Wyoming Valley Health Care Systems until his retirement at age 78. To mark their 70th wedding anniversary, blessings were given to the couple by the Rev. Michael Lepa, their nephew the Rev. John Chmil, and the Rev. Vincent Dang.

Family is their mantra. Their marriage is a role model to their family as their boys and family’s 11 marriages total over 250 years married together, and they have helped to build a wonderful family with 31 lives celebrating over 1,000 years. Now that’s a Wonderful Life. A family dinner party was held in their honor at Patte’s Sports Bar in Wilkes-Barre and was hosted by their family.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the Majikes family on this momentous occasion. May they continue to find joy to one another as they inspire generations to come.