

Following his childhood and adolescent years in North Carolina, Mr. Leach attended academic institutions in Virginia. He earned a B.A. from Hampden-Sydney College before graduating from the renowned law school at William & Mary.

A career devoted to public service soon followed. Randy moved to the City of Roanoke to begin a career as a public defender.

Later, he joined the Roanoke County Commonwealth Attorney's office. For 14 years, he served as Chief Assistant Commonwealth Attorney.

In 2002, the citizens of Roanoke County placed their trust in Randy Leach to serve the County and elected him as Commonwealth Attorney.

Appreciated by many, he ran for re-election four times and ran unopposed in each of those campaigns. He retired from his distinguished role as a constitutional officer in 2019.

As a practicing attorney in the Roanoke Valley during the same time, I had the pleasure of working with Randy throughout his tenure in the Commonwealth Attorney's office. I had many cases in Roanoke County and often Randy would be the prosecutor in a case I was defending.

Randy also regularly frequented Mac & Bob's restaurant, a popular site in Salem, Virginia, and was beloved there by the regulars.

Randy Leach is preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Jimmie Ruth Leach. He leaves behind his older brother, Ken Leach; nieces, Leslie Wall (Chad), Lisa Yancy, and Eden Gauss (Jai); younger brother, Keith Leach (Janis); and nephews, Michael, (Meghan), and Casey.

Randy Leach was a dedicated lawyer whose service and exceptional legal talents on behalf of Roanoke County was appreciated by many. He will be sorely missed by his family, colleagues, friends and the Roanoke Valley community.

RECOGNIZING SHAWN MORGAN

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Shawn Morgan, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, of Keller, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Morgan enlisted in the United States Army in 2004, serving as an infantryman and a drill sergeant, deploying three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On May 30, 2007, he was wounded in action after being shot by a sniper during an ambush on his patrol in Tarmiyah, Iraq. After recovering from his injuries, he rejoined his platoon to complete their 15-month deployment. He later was responsible for the training of over 1,500 soldiers as a drill sergeant before leaving the service in 2014.

Mr. Morgan's decorations include the Purple Heart, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Two Campaign Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award),

the Army Achievement Medal (5th Award), the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award), the Army Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Global Warrior Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2nd Award), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Drill Sergeant Identification Badge.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He currently serves as a full-time advocate for veterans with the Wounded Warrior Project where he has been instrumental in helping thousands of veterans connect with resources, their community, and organizations nationwide. He also serves as a soccer coach with i9 Sports Youth Soccer.

Mr. Morgan's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

APPRECIATION FOR HER EXCELLENCE DAME KAREN PIERCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, As Chairman of the Congressional UK Caucus alongside Co-Chairs DAVID ROUZER (NC-07), JIM HIMES (CT-04), and GABE AMO (RI-01), we include in the RECORD the following to honor Her Excellency Dame Karen Elizabeth Pierce, Lady Roxburgh, DCMG and her tenure as Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United States of America.

We are grateful to extend deep gratitude to Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG for her exemplary service as His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to the United States. Throughout her tenure, Dame Pierce demonstrated exceptional diplomacy, fostering a spirit of collaboration and friendship between our two Nations. Her steadfast commitment to the Special Relationship has not only upheld but strengthened the deep historical ties that unite the United States and the United Kingdom.

As key liaison to the United Kingdom, Dame Pierce has facilitated meetings with Congressional members and all levels of the British Government, from Prime Ministers to Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and members of the Royal Family. Dame Pierce's tenure was marked by her unwavering professionalism, strategic insight, and tireless advocacy for shared values, including democracy, human rights, and international security. Her ability to navigate complex geopolitical challenges with grace and determination set an inspiring example for diplomats around the world. Dame Pierce has remained steadfast in her ability to ensure the highest levels of diplomatic channels between our two Nations remain open and well used.

As Dame Pierce concludes her role as Ambassador, we appreciate her for her remarkable contributions to our bilateral relationship. Her leadership and dedication will be long remembered and appreciated by both Nations. On behalf of this body and the American people, we extend our best wishes to Dame Pierce in her future endeavors and express

our sincere gratitude for her distinguished service.

I was born with appreciation of British heritage in the most British city of North America, Charleston, South Carolina. Founded in 1670, named for Charles I as Charles Town. Surviving the American Civil War, the beautiful, elegant homes of the early seventeenth century have been preserved and restored forever to recognize our valued British heritage.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPPING CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act. This bill would ensure that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has the tools to protect consumers from fraud in the interstate transportation of household goods. Last Congress, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed this bill by a vote of 62–2. Representative MIKE EZELL is co-leading this bill with me. Senators DEB FISCHER and TAMMY DUCKWORTH are introducing the companion bill.

Specifically, this bill would clarify that FMCSA has the authority to assess civil penalties against fraudulent actors that hold consumers' personal goods hostage, allow FMCSA to leverage states' enforcement of federal consumer protection laws related to the transportation of household goods and establish requirements to ensure that motor carriers, brokers and freight forwarders that seek registration are operating legitimate businesses.

FMCSA receives thousands of complaints every year from the victims of fraud related to the shipment of household goods. Fraudsters have launched moving companies with fake 5-star online reviews to draw in customers, intending to overcharge customers or to hold their personal goods hostage until an additional fee is paid. After receiving negative reviews, fraudsters open a new moving company under a new name and a new FMCSA license. FMCSA lacks the authority to prevent and punish these types of fraud.

In 2019, a Department of Transportation Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruled that FMCSA lacks the authority to assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations, including unauthorized brokerage and failure to return household goods to consumers. This ruling reversed years of practice and enforcement by FMCSA. As a result of the ALJ's decision, FMCSA may not assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations. Instead, the Department of Justice must initiate an action in federal court, which limits enforcement action and leaves consumers to pay the price. This bill would clarify congressional intent and provide explicit authority for FMCSA to adjudicate and assess civil penalties for commercial regulations and registration requirements.

This bill would also provide explicit authority for FMCSA to withhold registration from any applicant that fails to provide a valid principal

place of business or disclose common ownership with any other registered entities at the time of registration. Scam household goods carriers, brokers and freight forwarders have registered with addresses where no legitimate operations take place, often designating their official address as a retail package store, parking lot or business address unrelated to the registered entity. Allowing FMCSA to validate this business information up front will help prevent future fraud and abuse in the truck freight sector.

This bill would also permit states to use Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program and High Priority Program funding to ensure compliance with federal regulations on household goods freight and consumer protection. It would also codify the existing practice of allowing states to retain the penalties and fines imposed in proceedings related to violations of household goods statutes and regulations. These provisions would support states in their efforts to protect consumers from predatory practices.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING ASSISTANT FIRE
CHIEF BOB CLEMM**

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize the Camp Hill Fire Company Assistant Fire Chief, Bob Clemm, on 65 years of tireless and dedicated service to our communities and the Fire Services at large.

Mr. Clemm, an educator and lifelong Firefighter, initially graduated with a degree in education, and went on to earn not one, but *three* Masters Degrees. He was hired in 1963 as an Industrial Arts teacher at Big Spring School District, and then served as Industrial Media Coordinator, where he ultimately was

responsible for the purchase, maintenance, and coordination of all audio-visual, computer, and IT infrastructure for the district. His dedication, performance, and efforts not only were highly respected by the students, but earned him the award of 1992 Educator of the Year by the Phi Delta Kappa chapter of Shippensburg University.

Mr. Clemm became a State Certified Fire Instructor with the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, and taught extensively in Cumberland County. He was an innovator in firefighting methods and taught specialty classes like vehicle rescue, aerial operations, and the use of rural water supply. Due to his skill, reputation, and knowledge, he also became a frequent guest instructor at the State Fire Academy.

Assistant Chief Clemm selflessly devoted countless time volunteering at the Academy when it was crippled with State budget deficits, and served as Assistant Fire Chief throughout most of his career. After "retiring" from active firefighting duties, he continued to serve in fire police operations.

As of June 2024, Assistant Fire Chief Bob Clemm's service to our communities has spanned an incredible 65 years. His contributions and legacy to the Fire Services throughout Pennsylvania are, simply put: innumerable and immeasurable. His tireless and limitless knowledge, leadership, skill, performance, care and dedication—all executed with quiet humility—set the standard by which we all should be judged.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and proud to commemorate Assistant Fire Chief Bob Clemm on his career spanning over 65 years. "Thank you" will never be enough, and I wish him continued good health, happiness, and Godspeed on his future adventures.

**HONORING EULESS CITY
MANAGER LORETTA GETCHELL**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retiring Euless City Manager Loretta Getchell for her exceptional 28 years of service to North Texas.

Loretta graduated from the University of North Alabama with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration later becoming a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Finance Officer. She began her career with the City of Euless in 1997 as the Director of Finance. She quickly moved through the ranks, becoming Assistant City Manager in 2004 and Deputy City Manager in 2007. As a result of her leadership, she was promoted to her current role of City Manager in 2015. While serving in this position, Loretta has been an integral force in the development and success of the Euless community. Her leadership has helped shape city policies, strengthen financial sustainability, and improve municipal services. Her commitment to excellence has earned her numerous accolades, including the 2024 Linda Keithley Award for Women in Public Management and the 2017 David Hofer Servant Leadership Award.

Beyond her professional achievements, Loretta has remained engaged in professional organizations, contributing her expertise to the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas, the Texas Society of CPAs, the American Institute of CPAs, the Texas City Manager's Association, and the North Texas City Managers Association. Her dedication to mentorship and professional development has left a lasting impact on the public administration field.

I thank Loretta for her service to the City of Euless, and congratulate her on her well-earned retirement.