

# RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEFF HILBORN

## HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to an extraordinary citizen from Minnesota's 8th Congressional district. After 45 years in the broadcasting business, Jeff Hilborn is retiring.

Jeff spent the first 22 years of his career in Kansas and South Dakota before making the Brainerd Lakes Area his home in 1992. Here in Brainerd, Jeff served in several management roles at KLIZ-FM The Power Loon before becoming the manager of six radio station groups for Hubbard Broadcasting.

Jeff and his wife Michelle raised their three children in Brainerd and have been integral members of their community for the last 32 years.

Jeff has dedicated himself to the people of the Brainerd Lakes Area by serving on the Board of Directors for the Brainerd Sports Boosters and the Sunrise Sertoma Club.

He also served as a committee member for the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce "Destination Downtown" initiative and worked on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Broadcasters Association.

Jeff is retiring but his legacy will not soon be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to work alongside him.

On behalf of the 8th Congressional District of Minnesota, I would like to thank Jeff for his commitment to our community and congratulate him on a job well done.

# HONORING FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL FRONIMOS

## HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Ms. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep admiration and respect to honor Chief Michael F. Fronimos, a dedicated public servant who has devoted over 35 years to the firefighting profession across multiple states. As we celebrate his first year as Fire Chief of the Fort Gratiot Charter Township Fire Department, it is fitting to reflect on his transformative leadership, steadfast service, and remarkable contributions to public safety and community well-being.

Chief Fronimos's first year as Fire Chief has been nothing short of extraordinary. He has turned around the morale of the Department, increasing volunteer staffing by nearly 50 percent, and has implemented groundbreaking initiatives to ensure the safety and efficiency of his team. Under his leadership, the Department acquired new life safety equipment and overhauled an aging apparatus fleet to meet NFPA guidelines, drastically improving readiness and compliance. Chief Fronimos has also introduced a new incident management system and scene accountability program, setting a higher standard for firefighter safety and

reducing risks of injuries and line-of-duty deaths.

His efforts to enhance training, promote mental health, and foster a positive work environment have created a culture of excellence within the Department. Beyond his internal impact, Chief Fronimos has strengthened Fort Gratiot's community risk reduction efforts and cultivated partnerships with countywide stakeholders, garnering recognition from federal agencies. His record-breaking open house drew unprecedented community engagement, showcasing his commitment to involving and inspiring the public.

Chief Fronimos's influence extends far beyond his Department. Twice elected as President of the National Information Officers Association, he has demonstrated exemplary leadership on a national level, sharing his expertise and advocating for transparency, communication, and collaboration in public safety.

Beyond his professional achievements, Chief Fronimos is a devoted father to his incredible young son, Mickey. His dedication to his family, his integrity, and his unwavering commitment to service are the foundations of his life.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Michael F. Fronimos's 35 years of service are a testament to his extraordinary dedication, innovation, and leadership. His first year as Fire Chief has profoundly transformed the Fort Gratiot Charter Township Fire Department and strengthened the community it serves.

# RECOGNIZING MCCrackEN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

## HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize McCracken County on the celebration of their Bicentennial. McCracken County is an integral part of Kentucky's 1st Congressional District, full of rich history and wonderful people. McCracken County, along with the City of Paducah, has been central to Western Kentucky's identity and growth for two centuries.

McCracken County has a proud history of contributing to the communities' rich economic, artistic, and cultural development.

The waterways of McCracken County play a pivotal role in the county's story, serving as a strategic hub for inland waterway industries. They continue to attract businesses to contribute significantly to local revenue through job creation, tourism, and business operations.

I am proud to represent the good people of McCracken County in Congress and look forward to seeing even more prosperous years to come.

# RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL ANTHONY J. CLOUD

## HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Colo-

nel Anthony J. Cloud. Colonel Cloud assumed the duties of Chief of Staff, Alabama Army National Guard on January 15, 2023. In his previous assignment Colonel Cloud served as the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Joint Force Headquarters.

Colonel Cloud began his military career as a Combat Engineer in the Alabama Army National Guard. Colonel Cloud received his commission in 1996 from the Alabama Military Academy, Officer Candidate School. Commissioned as an Engineer Officer, Colonel Cloud held various leadership and staff positions that made a significant impact on the ALARNG Engineer and Chemical community. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, The Chemical Advanced Course, Airborne School, the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. Command assignments include: Commander, HHD, 145th Chemical Battalion, 31st Chemical Brigade, ALARNG, Commander, 151st Chemical Battalion, 31st Chemical Brigade, ALARNG and Commander 31st Chemical Brigade.

Key staff assignments include Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel ALARNG, Deputy G3 ALARNG, Executive Officer/Administrative Officer for the 62nd Troop Command, Plans, Programs, and Environmental Division Chief, and Mobilization Plans Officer, Joint Force Headquarters; Engineer Platoon Leader, Battalion Operations Officer, 145th Engineer Battalion, 31st Armored Brigade, ALARNG; Executive Officer and TAC Officer in 2nd Battalion (Officer Candidate School), 200th Regiment, ALARNG; Executive Officer, 1203rd Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, Iraq.

Colonel Cloud holds a B.A. in Marketing from the University of Alabama and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army National Guard Components Achievement Medal with 2 Bronze Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star Device, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Star Device, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass Device and Mobilization Device, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Alabama National Guard Distinguished Service Ribbon, Alabama National Guard Commendation Ribbon, Alabama National Guard Veterans Service Ribbon with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Alabama National Guard National Emergency Service Ribbon with 9-11 Device, Alabama Special Service Ribbon, Alabama National Guard Faithful Service Medal with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze St. Andrews Cross Devices, Alabama National Guard Basic Training Ribbon, and the Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Colonel Cloud, and thanking him for his service. Congratulations.

HONORING COMMANDER EUNICE BUTTS

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History month with gratitude for the life of Commander Eunice Butts, her service to our country and Tampa Bay community. Commander Butts volunteered to serve America and shattered glass ceilings as an African American woman in the U.S. Air Force and National Guard during the Vietnam War. She served with courage, empathy and a love of country that continues to drive her work with service members to this day.

Born and raised in Tampa, Ms. Butts graduated from Middleton High School and was the first student to sing opera. Exploring her talent for singing and performing, she continued her education at Gibbs Junior College with a scholarship for music.

Following the first deployment of United States ground troops in Vietnam in 1965, Ms. Butts describes walking down the street and seeing the infamous "I want you" war poster that would effectively change the course of her life and begin her service epoch. Ms. Butts always dreamed of helping and opening doors for others, aware of the oppression that came before her and continued during her early life. Immediately walking in the recruitment center and enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, Ms. Butts knew she was ready to patriotically serve her country and uphold the legacy of Black women in the military. Her instinct to serve rang true and 16 years later, Ms. Butts left active duty and settled in Montgomery, Alabama.

Ms. Butts is the proud mother of two sons and a daughter, Edward, Robert and Franjerner. She is also the grandmother of three children, Benjamin, Zori and Latrice.

As a true public servant, Ms. Butts sought other ways to serve her country and found that the Air Force Reserves were looking for Black women. She continued her service in the Air Force Reserves, Alabama National Guard and in the American Legion for an additional 25 years.

Ms. Butts' beliefs were rooted in the sentiment of giving and showing love to all, especially unsung heroes. In the 1970s, Ms. Butts returned to Tampa where she served in the American Legion with World War II Veteran Willie Mae Williams, where they evangelized the pivotal role that women played in the military. When Ms. Williams passed, Ms. Butts answered the call of letting the world know the untold story of female veterans. Ms. Butts moved through the ranks of the American Legion and is the first African American female to serve as the American Legion Department State of Florida Commander.

Continuing to heal the wounds of Vietnam veterans, Ms. Butts believes that every day, Americans should pray and take under their wings, all the veterans who have served in our military. She often reminded her peers that many have been wounded, if not mentally, then physically, or both. Ms. Butts gave the gift of compassion to her partners in veteran service organizations and preached that service members need our shoulders to lean on for support and love.

Commander Butts bravely volunteered to fight and defend a country that did not always

protect and defend Black women, yet she never wavered in her full devotion to America and liberty and justice for all. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the patriotic Tampa Bay community, I thank Eunice Butts for her 39 and counting years of work to her fellow service members, veterans and their loved ones. Joining the legacy of women who inspired her, Ms. Butts life's work will be a foundation and benefaction for young, Black women everywhere, especially those who choose to defend and protect our Nation. She has effectively nurtured and opened doors for her fellow service members all while passing on the valiant stories of female veterans who our Nation will be forever grateful for.

HONORING THE LIFETIME SERVICE OF JAMES SHORE AND HIS BATTLE WITH CANCER

**HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has committed his life to public service and who deserves our appreciation and support.

For more than three decades, James Shore has served his country and his community. His service began in 1989 when he enlisted with the United States Marine Corps. For four years, James served in some of the most challenging and dangerous regions in the world: from Somalia in the Horn of Africa to the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm. His time in the Marine Corps was recognized with numerous awards for his bravery, leadership, and dedication.

James completed his military service in 1993, but his service to his community was just beginning. He started a career in law enforcement, where he earned recognition for his commitment to the safety of his community and the well-being of his colleagues. He took a leadership role in the Fraternal Order of Police by helping to establish the Davidson County Lodge 97, where he served as President until 2020.

In 2020, James again demonstrated his commitment to public service when he took a seat on the Davidson County Commission. As a County Commissioner, he made significant contributions to the county's justice and public safety while expanding his public service by taking part in the National Association of Counties and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

In 2023, James was honored with the M.H. "Jack" Brock Outstanding County Commissioner Award for spearheading Operation Green Light for Veterans, an initiative to raise awareness and support for veterans in North Carolina.

In October 2024, James was diagnosed with cancer, and he is expected to complete his treatment on February 6, 2025. Throughout this fight, James has inspired others with his perseverance and commitment to his family and his community. I thank James for his three decades of service. My thoughts and prayers are with him as he navigates this battle against cancer.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT TODD SMITHER

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Todd Smither of the Frankfort Police Department for being awarded the 2024 Medal of Valor for his bravery demonstrated while responding to a critical situation within Franklin County.

During a high-risk pursuit with an armed suspect who had barricaded himself in a vehicle following a multi-jurisdictional pursuit, Lieutenant Smither demonstrated excellent leadership by quickly developing and implementing a tactical plan to resolve the situation effectively. Additionally, along with Sergeant Presley, they worked to de-escalate a potentially lethal situation successfully.

Under Lieutenant Smither's directions, his fellow officers were able to provide adequate support, which led to safeguarding human life. His actions and exceptional teamwork skills allowed for a peaceful resolution for all involved.

Lieutenant Smither voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery. His actions went above and beyond and have made him deserving of this fine honor. I am confident that Lieutenant Smither will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

HONORING HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPUTY CHIEF MARK HOOPER

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2025*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I use today to commemorate and recognize Hamilton County Sheriff Deputy Chief Mark Hooper on his retirement on February 18, 2025.

Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Mark Hooper was officially promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief on June 25, 2024. With forty years of service at the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Chief Hooper oversees the day-to-day operations of Law Enforcement Services which include Uniformed Services, Investigative Services, Judicial Security Services, School Resource Deputy Unit, and Special Operations.

Throughout his notable career, Chief Hooper has held roles in Uniformed Services, Investigative Services, and Narcotics and Special Investigations, rising from Patrol Deputy to Captain. Notable achievements include founding the nationally recognized Pharmacy Alert Program and leading initiatives like the integration and expansion of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) throughout the department's operations. In 2016, he oversaw the training and the deployment of Naloxone to Hamilton County deputies, which was one of the first agencies in Tennessee to provide this capability. In 2017, he led the initiative in tracking heroin and fentanyl overdoses in Hamilton County and the pursuit and prosecution of traffickers.