

Since his promotion to Captain in 2018, Chief Hooper has been a driving force in the adoption of new technology within the Sheriff's Office. He has championed the use of body-worn cameras, data analytics, the creation of our Crime Intelligence and Analyst Unit (CIAU), and enhanced communication systems.

Born and raised in Whitwell, Tennessee, Chief Hooper is a 2014 graduate of the University of Tennessee Southern Command & Leadership Academy. He is married to Mrs. Stacy Enloe Hooper and together they have a son, Reeves.

I am honored to recognize Chief Hooper for his many years of dedicated service to the residents of Hamilton County, Tennessee and congratulate him on his retirement.

HONORING CARRIE HURST

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 to celebrate a change agent, community leader and lifelong Tampa Bay advocate, Carrie Jean Lofton Hurst.

Mrs. Hurst was born and raised in Tampa, Florida, as the youngest of six children. She graduated from Tampa Bay Technical High School in 1977, where she met Robert Hurst, Sr. Afterwards, they became engaged but pursued different paths—Mrs. Hurst's mother had always championed education as a priority, so Mrs. Hurst attended Hillsborough Community College (HCC) and Mr. Hurst started his military career. She worked in the library as a student assistant while pursuing her associate's degree, which she earned in 1979.

Mrs. Hurst delayed completing her university studies to marry and join her husband on assignment.

Soon after relocating and starting a family, Mrs. Hurst started at the library on base at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where they were stationed. She fell in love with the library and learned the skills she needed. Her husband was then reassigned overseas, and she went home to Tampa to await his return.

Back in Tampa, she obtained employment again at HCC's library, where she remained for 18 years as a library technical assistant. During her time there, her love of the work rekindled her desire to further her education, so she worked full-time by day and attended classes by night. She completed her bachelor's degree in 1998 from St. Leo University and then earned her master's degree with honors in 2000 from the University of South Florida.

Mrs. Hurst started her career at Tampa Hillsborough Public Library in 2000 at the 78th Street Library then at the Ybor City Branch Library. In 2008, she became branch manager of the Seminole Heights Library and guided the modernization of the popular library. In 2015, Mrs. Hurst came back to the Ybor City location to now lead it as the new Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Library, named after a prominent Civil Rights leader.

Being selected to open and lead this library would become Mrs. Hurst's greatest professional challenge and role, as this is no ordi-

nary library. The Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Public Library is one of only two African American research libraries in the entire state of Florida. This library is near historical Central Avenue that once served as the hub of Black businesses, Black entertainment and culture for more than 100 years. The library encompasses a visual focus and collection focused on African American life and history. Mrs. Hurst was instrumental in developing initiatives that support access to information and history of this culture and history. She developed community presentations and collaborations, and her efforts were supported by the Library Administration, the Ada T. Payne Friends of the Urban Libraries, the Robert Saunders Foundation and community partners and participants.

"Free and accessible information is a human right and a necessary part of the pathway to equality." Mrs. Hurst yearns to share her knowledge and experience with others. She admires the spirit of service and egalitarianism inherent in librarianship. Librarians seek challenges and continue learning for themselves, to promote and enable the acquisition of knowledge of others and uphold libraries as institutions for betterment, all the things that Mrs. Hurst dedicated herself to.

Libraries have continued to evolve in the age of technology and in the face of the rapid change in the way that information is collected, distributed and preserved. It was compelling to her that access to information and technology could help lay the cultural groundwork for creating social change. Mrs. Hurst embraced this change and mobilized within her community, bringing members of her community to the library for informational and cultural activities. Mrs. Hurst sought to work in urban libraries where she could identify, engage and motivate people wherever they were in their lives. Her desire to assist, encourage and inspire others to use the resources of the library to rise above their circumstances helped to create a strong network of partnerships to touch and transform lives of many.

Mrs. Hurst is also a Charter Member of the Tampa Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a Member of the NAACP Hillsborough County branch and the Beta Phi Mu, International Library Honor Society. In her retirement, she continues to assist in creating community initiatives and she motivates others by reminding them to: "Keep striving, reach for your dreams. It's all attainable. Just put one foot in front of the other."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am honored to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, leadership and service of Mrs. Carrie Jean Lofton Hurst, who stands as a shining example of the tremendous impact of hard work, nurturing others and providing service to the community to encourage others to reach their highest potential.

RECOGNIZING THE SLCC CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Salt Lake Community College Cross Country

Program—a testament to the determination, resilience, and spirit of Utah's student-athletes.

In Richmond, Virginia, at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Cross Country Championships, the SLCC Bruins made history by sweeping both the men's and women's races, capturing national titles on both sides. This remarkable accomplishment speaks to the extraordinary talent and dedication of the student-athletes and coaching staff.

The women's team claimed its second consecutive national championship, dominating the field and finishing 46 points ahead of their closest competitors. Their impressive victory continued just two days later, as they claimed first place in the NJCAA Half Marathon National Championship—a historic feat for SLCC and a significant milestone in women's athletics at the college.

On the men's side, the Bruins secured second place in the NJCAA Half Marathon National Championship, demonstrating their competitive edge and depth of talent.

These achievements would not have been possible without the leadership of Head Coach Isaac Wood, who was named NJCAA National Coach of the Year, along with Assistant Coaches Kelsey Gilbert, Alden Carlson, and Tom Gruenewald. Athletic Director Kevin Dustin has also been instrumental in fostering a culture of excellence at SLCC.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee and a former athlete myself, I know firsthand the importance of athletic programs in shaping character and building future leaders. The success of the Salt Lake Community College Cross Country Program is not just a win for Utah, but an inspiration for aspiring athletes everywhere.

I applaud the SLCC Cross Country Program for their extraordinary accomplishments, and I look forward to seeing their continued success in the years to come. Their hard work, resilience, and sportsmanship embody the best of what it means to be a Bruin.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER BYRON REDMON

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Byron Redmon of the Frankfort Police Department on 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, Officer Redmon provided critical tactical support throughout the duration of the event, allowing for a synchronized response that led to the suspect's safe apprehension.

Throughout this critical situation, Officer Redmon provided crucial support contributing to the resolution. His actions and exceptional teamwork skills allowed for a peaceful resolution for all involved.

Officer Redmon 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

Officer Redmon will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORDS MATTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Words Matter for the District of Columbia Courts Act, which would remove the term “retarded” from Title 11 of the District of Columbia Code and replace it with more appropriate and respectful terms. Last Congress, the Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent. Senators JERRY MORAN and GARY PETERS are introducing the companion bill.

Removing the term from the law has bipartisan support. In 2010, Congress removed several instances of the term from federal law by passing Rosa’s Law (P.L. 111–256). Last Congress, I joined Republican and Democratic colleagues in introducing the Words Matter Act, which would remove several more instances of the term from federal law.

The term is used three times in Title 11 of the D.C. Code, and, under the D.C. Home Rule Act, only Congress can amend Title 11 of the D.C. Code.

There was a time when the term was a clinical term, but in more recent years, it has become a slur used against people with intellectual disabilities. Words indisputably matter, and I know our country is better than keeping such language in our law.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes as I was under the weather. Due to my absence, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 28 and Roll Call No. 29.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 28. I fully support the Alaska Native corporations to exercise self-governance over their lands.

Additionally, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 29. I support programs that provide states assistance to control and/or eradicate invasive species which wreak havoc on local ecosystems.

HONORING MR. GLENN R. BLANCHETTE

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Glenn R. Blanchette. Originally from

Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Mr. Blanchette joined the U.S. Army after graduating from the University of Rhode Island. After more than 20 years of honorable service, he retired as a Major in 2007 and began his next career with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

As the Regional Administrator for the National Capital Region, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, he has been at the forefront of emergency responses for multiple category four and five hurricanes and catastrophic earthquakes, both in the United States and internationally, for almost two decades.

Not only was Mr. Blanchett a leader during natural disasters, but he displayed untiring dedication to the U.S. Congress for five Presidential Inaugurations, fifteen Lying in State and Lying in Honor ceremonies, more than fifty Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies, eighteen State Of The Union Addresses, twenty-three Joint Meetings of Congress, concerts, protests, and countless impromptu requests directly supporting the Office of Attending Physician to the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

No matter whether it was early morning or late evening, a weekend or a holiday, rainy or bitterly cold, Mr. Blanchett orchestrated and supervised the delivery of tents, generators, equipment, and supplies for the treatment of heat injuries, traumatic injuries, Advance Cardiac Life Support responses, and patient evacuations, in direct support of the U.S. Congress.

Regardless of world events, Mr. Blanchette’s “What do you need?” and “We are here for you” attitude made the impossible, possible. He assembled teams of hundreds of elite medical professionals from all over the country to support tens of thousands of guests, dignitaries, security forces, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Associate Justices and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Vice President and President of the United States, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives during National Special Security Events in the U.S. Capitol.

Today I would like to honor Mr. Blanchette and thank him for his decades of service to our country both in the U.S. Army and with the Department of Health and Human Services, and I wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER ANDREW HUMPHRIES

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Andrew Humphries of the Frankfort Police Department on 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, Officer Humphries, responding to Lieutenant Smith’s direction, approached the barricaded vehicle and successfully deployed chemical munitions, forcing the suspect to exit.

Officer Humphries demonstrated excellent courage and tactical precision through his response. He played a vital role in ensuring this potentially lethal situation was resolved successfully.

Officer Humphries 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 Officer Humphries will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers across the 1st Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, S. 300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, S. 371, to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and committee rules for the 119th Congress.

SR-428A