

Mr. Ferguson understood something that I often say about HBCUs: They were not built for comfort. They were built for purpose. So was he.

Educated at North Carolina Central University and Columbia Law School, he returned home not to make headlines, Madam Speaker, but to make a difference.

In my journey, I admired him long before I ever met him, but when I ran for Congress, he became a trusted friend, a supporter, and an adviser.

Mr. Ferguson didn't just practice law. He lived it. He believed that justice must be pursued even when it is unpopular and even when the odds are long.

That is the legacy of James Ferguson, not just the legal victories but the courage to take on cases that no one else would, the integrity to mentor the next generation, and the conviction that justice was not just a profession but, for him, a calling.

Mr. Ferguson was a leader in the courtroom. He was a leader in the classroom. He was a leader in our community. He was a model for what public service looks like at its best. Madam Speaker, as a former educator myself, I know a good teacher when I see one. Fergie taught us all.

Today, I honor his life. I honor his work. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and his many friends across Charlotte and across this country.

Let us remember him not only in words but in action by picking up the work that he left behind, by fighting the fights that he could not finish, and by standing tall in the truth that he lived.

May he rest in power.

□ 1030

#### HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF JIMMY MOORE

(Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, James Moore, Sr., who passed away on May 15 of this year. He lived his life in Shelby County, Tennessee.

By the way, for the purpose of these remarks, everybody at home just knew him as Jimmy.

Jimmy loved his family, golf, public service, and the car leasing business, probably in that order.

A longtime owner of Jimmy Moore Leasing, Jimmy never met a customer nor a person with whom he could probably not connect to in some way, shape, or form, probably the same way he connected to people on the golf course.

Jimmy really shined as a public servant. In public service, Jimmy was elected numerous times as a respected member of the Memphis City Council and then a number of times as the circuit court clerk in Shelby County.

Jimmy was a true public servant in every sense of the word. Jimmy was the type of guy who when you were frustrated that city hall wasn't doing enough about the trash being collected, you called Jimmy, Madam Speaker, and he got the trash picked up, usually the same day.

Jimmy was the type of guy that when the traffic lights weren't working, Madam Speaker, you called him, and he would get it taken care of right away the same day.

It may not have been his department or his agency, Madam Speaker, but Jimmy was the guy that you called when you needed your driver's license or marriage license or business license expedited. Jimmy would get to the right people who would get back to you and get it taken care of usually the same day.

As the circuit court clerk, he managed the case filings, the employees, the litigants, and the judges, and he kept all the trains on the track.

Here are two important things about Jimmy: He truly loved people, and he truly loved helping people.

I talked to my friends, Steve Stamson, who was the juvenile court clerk of Shelby County, and also Joy Touliatos, who followed Steve as the juvenile court clerk of Shelby County.

This is what Joy told me about Jimmy and her relationship with him. Joy and the others told me: If Jimmy was your friend, he was your friend for life. If Jimmy walked into the room, people knew that he had your back.

Jimmy dedicated his life to making sure that he left Shelby County a better place to live and to raise a family. Jimmy will be remembered not only for his leadership to our community but also as a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, and a loyal friend.

To Jimmy's beloved wife, Barbara; and his beloved children, Linda, Jimmy Jr., Wendy, and Tim; Roberta and I mourn with you, but we also have so many fond memories of your husband and your father.

Jimmy's loss is a true loss to our community. There is no doubt that Jimmy Moore is greatly missed.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD "DOC" BORCICKY

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Richard "Doc" Borcicky, a Vietnam war veteran and constituent of North Carolina's First Congressional District.

A native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Doc has dedicated his life to selfless sacrifice. After enlisting in the Marine Corps as a hospital corpsman 3rd class, Doc flew into the heart of danger to execute medevac helicopter support missions.

Flown by an exceptionally skilled and resilient crew consisting of a pilot,

copilot, crew chief, two gunners, and a skilled, combat-trained Navy corpsman, medevac helicopter support personnel volunteered to fly these missions anywhere, anytime, 7 days a week.

In August of 1969, Doc, a 19-year-old, deployed to Da Nang. Almost instantly, marines stationed there came under heavy artillery and rocket fire, but Doc stood tall, going on to fly 250 combat support missions over 12 months outside the wire.

Amidst the fog of war, Doc and his fellow marines sought refuge where they could. At the Sacred Heart Orphanage in Da Nang, Doc spent time with forgotten children, many of whom had fathers who had served alongside him.

Doc captured one such kid on camera. His name was Kirk Kellerhals. After being adopted by a U.S. Army veteran, Kirk came to America. In 2017, when he learned of his past, he met the man who had volunteered at his orphanage to escape the tragedy of war.

Through it all, Doc touched the lives of not only these children but of countless servicemembers wounded in battle who never knew his name.

His story shines a light on the forgotten heroes of one of the most consequential conflicts in world history, and it reminds us that all those who have served are deserving of our everlasting gratitude.

When they returned home, Vietnam veterans did not receive a hero's welcome as their parents and grandparents had following the world wars. Instead, their service went unnoticed, unappreciated, and unknown.

By taking the time to honor their patriotism and sacrifice, especially of those whose responsibility it was to save the lives of servicemembers wounded in battle, we are taking one step toward righting that wrong.

In the end, it was former Marine Corps Commandant General Chapman who best summarized what helicopter support meant to marines on the ground in Vietnam proclaiming: "When a marine in Vietnam is wounded, surrounded, hungry, low on ammunition or water, he looks to the sky. He knows the choppers are coming . . ."

#### RECOGNIZING EDWARD EUGENE HOLMES, JULY VETERAN OF THE MONTH

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our July Veteran of the Month, Edward Eugene Holmes. He was a proud Missourian and a resident of the Missouri Veterans Home, and I got a chance to meet him this past winter.

He just left this Earth last month at the age of 99, and we want to take the time to honor his life and legacy today.

Edward was born on April 7, 1926. He joined the U.S. Navy in June of 1944,

just weeks after graduating from high school. He served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific during World War II and was later assigned to the USS *Ault*, part of the Seahorse Squadron, in preparation for the invasion of Japan.

After the war ended, Edward remained on duty during the occupation until January of 1946. During his service, he traveled the world from Australia to Africa to Japan and back home through the Panama Canal.

He was honorably discharged with the rank of Seaman 1st class.

After the Navy, Edward built a long and successful career in the floral industry and was known for his love of fishing, golfing, hunting, and making breakfast for his grandchildren. He was the proud father of 3 sons, grandfather to 6, and great-grandfather to 13.

Madam Speaker, Edward Holmes served his country faithfully with honor, humility, and always heart. It is my privilege to recognize him posthumously as our July Veteran of the Month.

□ 1040

#### HONORING ROGER WILLIAM SWANK

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we honor a true American patriot, Master Sergeant Robert William Swank as our August Veteran of the Month.

He was born in Wichita, Kansas, and reared in Fort Scott. He answered the call to serve in 1967 and spent over 36 years in uniform, including time in Vietnam with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Roger earned the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, and numerous other awards. He continued his service in the Missouri Army National Guard for more than three decades and retired in 2004.

Off the battlefield, he was just as committed, serving as a mail carrier, a community leader, and a devoted family man. He was married to his wife, Linda, for 35 years, and together they have raised seven daughters.

Even in retirement, Roger remains a pillar of his community by volunteering with the Red Cross, serving his church for more than 40 years, and acting as assistant chaplain for the Disabled American Veterans organization.

Madam Speaker, I thank Roger so much for his lifelong service to our country and our communities. He is an inspiration to us all.

#### HONORING ANNE'S ACRES

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we are proud to honor Anne's Acres, a generational family farm in Lincoln, Missouri, in the Fourth District as our July Small Business of the Month.

Since 1999, Robert and Leslie Exendine, along with their three daughters and six grandkids, have cultivated five acres with nearly 7,000 blooming blueberry plants. Say that 10 times fast. This vibrant farm named

for the shared middle name of Leslie and their daughter Kadey is a cornerstone of our district.

During its peak 3-week season from Father's Day to the Fourth of July, Anne's Acres welcomes over 200 visitors, including local school kids. The gift shop delights a lot of people with the aroma of freshly baked blueberry muffins and refreshing slushies. I am hungry now.

Robert, a retired Air Force mechanic from Whiteman Air Force Base, and his family are now expanding, adding 8,000 strawberry plants for next spring.

Congratulations to the Exendine family, including Kadey and her sons, for their dedication. I invite you all to go visit them in Lincoln, Missouri.

#### HONORING DAN & JERRY'S GREENHOUSES

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise today to honor Dan & Jerry's Greenhouses, a small business gem in Harrisonville, Missouri, in the Fourth District, our August Small Business of the Month.

For years, Dan & Jerry's has been a cornerstone of our community. Their Farm Fresh Selects trial garden tests hundreds of plant varieties each year, making sure only the best make it to our gardens.

Beyond their exceptional products, they foster community spirit through events like the Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, Fall Festival, and Plant a Flower for Mom on Mother's Day.

These gatherings create lasting memories and strengthen our small-town bonds. We are honored to be able to visit this phenomenal spot this August during our district work period.

I thank them for their dedication to excellence and community. Let's get to Harrisonville and visit them, as well. Thank you to Dan & Jerry's Greenhouses for being our August Small Business of the Month.

#### HONORING INCREDIBLE PEOPLE OF NORTH TEXAS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today full of gratitude and pride for the incredible people of north Texas, my neighbors, and my constituents, who have stepped up in extraordinary ways to help their fellow Texans through one of the most devastating flood disasters our State has faced in years.

We all know that when tragedy strikes in Texas, we don't wait around for permission to do the right thing. We just show up. We roll up our sleeves. We help our neighbors pick up the pieces. That has been on full display in the weeks after the floods.

I will take a moment to recognize just a few of the many heroes from Texas' 32nd Congressional District who have gone above and beyond to provide hope and help when it was needed the most.

Sabrina Pinales, Ryan Lenamon, Savion Lee, David Hardage, and Lauren

Sturdy, five of my remarkable constituents, didn't think twice before answering the call. They joined their church mission team and headed straight to the Hill Country where flood waters had washed away homes overnight.

These five north Texans have been on the ground every day helping families, clearing debris, delivering supplies, and rebuilding what was lost. They remind us that faith in action and neighbor helping neighbor is what holds this State together when times are hard.

I also want to lift up the brave men and women of the Plano Fire Department and first responders from Dallas. When floodwaters rose and families needed rescue, these heroes did what they always do: They run toward the danger. They deployed to central Texas to help rescue stranded families, clear the roads, and make sure entire communities could get back on their feet safely. They represent the very best of our communities: courage, commitment, and compassion.

It is not just these few. Across north Texas, neighbors have opened their doors to displaced families. Churches, synagogues, and mosques have collected food, clothing, and essentials. Local businesses have donated truckloads of supplies. Nonprofits like the North Texas Food Bank have mobilized to get fresh meals and water to families who have lost everything in just seconds. Countless volunteers have driven hours to help strangers through this terrible disaster.

These are who Texans are. We are defined by our resilience, by our people, by our willingness to stand shoulder to shoulder and say: "We got you."

Our State has faced immense tragedy with hundreds of victims, many of whom were children, little girls excited to go to summer camp to make new friends and create memories that would last for a lifetime. Our entire Nation mourns those we have lost, and we are holding close the families who are doing everything they can just to make it through each day hour by hour.

Those families and those victims deserve answers. We must hold State and Federal officials accountable. We have a new chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. GARBARINO from New York. It is my hope that he will respond to our calls to convene the Homeland Security Committee for an oversight hearing of these floods to examine what went wrong and how our government can do better in the future.

Texans deserve a government that matches their generosity. We deserve a government that plans ahead, responds quickly, and never lets politics get in the way of protecting our communities.

Today, I say thank you to Sabrina, Ryan, Savion, David, and Lauren. I thank the Plano Fire Department and our first responders from Dallas. I thank every volunteer, every neighbor,