

Mrs. Bendross adored her children and taught each of them the importance of an education.

As a dedicated member of the Historic Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and later Bible Missionary Baptist Church, she served on several missionary boards, sang in the choir, served on an usher board and was fully committed to serving the Lord.

Mrs. Bendross is preceded in death by her husband of 63 years Mr. Willie J. Bendross, and three of her seven children; Donald Bendross, Dallas Bendross and Joyce Bendross Forchion. She leaves to carry on her legacy her children; Pinnie (Patricia) Bendross, James Bendross, Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall, Bennie (Yvonne) Bendross and a host of grandchildren, great-great and great-great-grandchildren.

Please join me in honoring the late Mrs. Ora B. Bendross for her unwavering faith and commitment to her family and her community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF TAMMIE BEBOUT

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tammie Bebout, my Director of Constituent Services since I began in Congress in 2011. This month, Tammie is retiring from public service as a Congressional staffer after serving Members of Congress for more than 24 years.

Tammie's career in Congress first started in Virginia's 4th Congressional District. For years, she worked for Representative Randy Forbes of Virginia. Tammie made great strides, first as a Constituent Services Representative and then as a Senior Constituent Services Representative. Thanks to Tammie's efforts, she developed a precise understanding of casework and district office operations and issues that impacted her local community. She served as an excellent representative for Congressman Forbes' office.

The people of Virginia's 4th Congressional District and the office of Representative Forbes appreciated her dedication and service.

Tammie and her husband, Jim, then decided to move across the Commonwealth to Washington County, Virginia. Tammie so loved her work in Congressman Forbes' office that for some period of time she commuted across the State to continue her work for the 4th District.

They had settled in the Town of Damascus, a small rural town in Southwest Virginia of less than 1,000 people. Such towns make up a large portion of Virginia's 9th Congressional District, which spans over more than 9,000 square miles. Given the District's sparsely populated communities, there are unique challenges that people in our region face.

After being elected to serve these constituencies in Virginia's 9th Congressional District, I assembled a team in my district offices to tend to these challenges and our rural communities. Given her experience, my team considered it a godsend to be able to hire Tammie. We knew she would help to deliver an exceptional constituent services operation. And she did so.

With Tammie's background and leadership, my office's casework operations hit the ground running in 2011. We were ahead of many freshman offices thanks to her institutional knowledge of constituent services.

Tammie's leadership in my Abingdon office helped navigate various challenges for constituents. Such issues included federal natural disaster relief, federal agency help, veterans' assistance, and legislative correspondence, among other matters. In 2025 alone, Tammie helped with my office casework operations by contacting 40 federal agencies, completing more than 1,100 cases, and securing more than \$1.685 million from federal agencies.

Whether out in the field or in the office, Tammie always acted in her role with the utmost professionalism, integrity, and respect.

My office mission statement highlights the importance of responsible leadership, principled representation, and exceptional constituent services for the people of Virginia's 9th District. I am proud to say that Tammie will be remembered for carrying out these principles with true class, heart, and skill.

Tammie exceeded well beyond all expectations as a constituent services leader. Moreover, her warmth, kindness and faith always resonated with those we helped. I am honored that Tammie could call herself a representative of my office.

I congratulate Tammie on an extraordinary career. On behalf of Virginia's 9th Congressional District and my staff, I offer her well wishes.

SUPPORTING H.R. 7757, THE KIDS INTERNET AND DIGITAL SAFETY (KIDS) ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7757, the Kids Internet and Digital Safety (KIDS) Act, the first step towards delivering long-overdue privacy protections for children and teens online.

Social media companies use mass data collection and algorithms to drive adults, teens, and children towards harmful content, misinformation, and targeted ads that line the profits of Big Tech companies. H.R. 7757, the KIDS Act, would safeguard minors from these harmful practices.

The KIDS Act is a package of 14 online safety bills, including revised provisions from the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, that would require social media companies to protect the personal data of our children and teens and prevent the promotion of harmful content like eating disorders and suicide. Specifically, the KIDS Act will mandate safeguards, parental tools, and policies to keep kids safe when using social media, video games, chatbots, and more. These safeguards will limit addictive design features, restrict sharing the geolocation of minors, limit adult users from communicating with minors, restrict personalized recommendation systems, and more.

I have had real concerns with provisions in the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) that could harm members of my community. The version

of KOSA that was included in the KIDS Act includes a major change that removes the "duty of care" provision. This provision could have been weaponized by President Trump's politically motivated Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which has already made it its mission to attack gender-affirming care every chance it gets. Removing that provision from the final bill will safeguard against politically motivated censorship online.

Additionally, I have heard from constituents expressing their concerns with online age verification that could be required by the KIDS Act. I agree with those I have heard from; if age verification is required across all online platforms, it could create additional privacy concerns for our children and teens. However, the only age verification requirement that is mandated by the KIDS Act is for pornographic websites. For these websites, the bill does not require government identification to verify age. The bill also contains provisions to ensure data collected or used for age verification on pornographic websites complies with strict data minimization and security measures.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. ESSIE MCCRAY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of South Florida's most respected and admired educators, the late Ms. Essie McCray.

Ms. McCray's passion and desire to help people led her to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher and a social worker, and in doing so, she always encouraged others to live out and pursue their dreams.

Her first teaching position was at Ada Merritt Middle School in Miami, Florida, where she nurtured and guided many young students eager to learn. Ms. McCray's career as an educator would span decades, leading her to become an Assistant Principal at Miami Northwestern Senior High School before her retirement. However, her penchant and desire to help others did not end with her retirement from the public school system but continued throughout her life and extended well beyond the classroom.

Ms. McCray's countless acts of kindness and her overflowing generosity live on within all those who know and love her, especially her children: her daughter Kim McCray, her son James McCray and her mother Mrs. Minnie Robinson. Her extended family includes her brothers, James A. Bostic, Larry Young and William Robinson; her sister Patricia Canada and a host of aunts, uncles, loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Essie McCray was born on May 12, 1944, in Brunswick, Georgia to Minnie Robinson and the late James Bostic, Senior. Ms. McCray was educated within the Miami Dade County Public School System. Her studies continued at Florida A&M University, and she earned her Master of Science Degree in Social Work from Florida International University.

Please join me in honoring the late Ms. Essie McCray for her unwavering faith and commitment to her community, family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, due to a previously scheduled classified briefing, I missed the vote on June 30, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 233.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF RICHARD A. KWASNESKI**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Richard A. Kwasneski on his retirement as the Chairman of the Pace Suburban Bus Board of Directors after an outstanding career in public service.

A short time after graduating from Lewis University, Richard Kwasneski began his distinguished career in public service with the Village of Lemont, Illinois. Richard first served as a village trustee in 1985, before taking on the larger responsibility of mayor from 1993 to 2001.

On August 28, 2002, Richard began a long and esteemed tenure with Pace when he was appointed as the representative from Southwest Cook County to the Board of Directors of Pace Suburban Bus. On December 7, 2006, he was appointed Chairman of the Pace Suburban Bus Board of Directors, a position he held with distinction for nearly two decades. As the longest-serving chairman in the agency's history, Richard's leadership was so highly regarded that he was reappointed for five consecutive terms.

Throughout his time with Pace, Richard cultivated vital partnerships to enhance service delivery and infrastructure investments across a service area of 274 communities. His forward-thinking approach led to the successful implementation of innovative programs such as Bus on Shoulder along I-55 and I-94, Flex Lane Express Service along I-90, Pulse Rapid Transit, and On Demand services. Furthermore, Richard was instrumental in securing two federal RAISE grants for the reconstruction of the Harvey Transportation Center and the construction of the Pulse Halsted Line, along with leading the push for the advancement of Pace's Regional ADA Paratransit Program. Finally, Richard oversaw the largest investment in suburban transit infrastructure through the Rebuild Illinois Program.

Beyond his work with Pace, his contributions to regional economic development through the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority and his leadership on the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Board Executive Committee have left a lasting impact on his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an honorable community leader in my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Richard on his retirement and thanking him for his many years of service to the people of Illinois.

HONORING HUGH "CARL" GOODING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful to express appreciation for the life of Carl Gooding, also known as "The Big Dog", of Allendale County, whose dedication to public service will be eternalized in his community, and honored by his friends and family. His daily morning radio talk show on WDOG-AM has been an inspiration promoting the citizens of Allendale and Barnwell counties. I include in the RECORD the following obituary provided by Keith Smith Funeral Services:

HUGH "CARL" GOODING

It is with profound sadness that the Gooding family announces the passing of Hugh "Carl" Gooding, affectionately known to his family as "Grandpa Carl" and throughout the Lowcountry as "The Big Dog". Mr. Gooding entered into eternal rest on Sunday, July 5, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the people of Allendale County and the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

Carl was born on September 17, 1945, in Hampton County, South Carolina, to the late Hugh Woodrow Gooding and Addie Mae Williams Gooding. He was a 1963 graduate of Wade Hampton High School, before making Allendale County his lifelong home alongside his beloved wife of more than sixty years, Lisa Bell Gooding.

A respected businessman and civic leader, Carl devoted his life to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Allendale County and the surrounding region. He faithfully served on the Allendale County Council for more than twenty years, retiring in December 2022. Throughout his distinguished public service, he held numerous regional and statewide leadership positions, including service on the Savannah River Site Redevelopment Authority, the South Carolina State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the USC Salkehatchie Educational Foundation Partnership Board, and the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance, where he served in several leadership roles, including Chairman. His efforts helped recruit billions of dollars in private investment and thousands of jobs to rural South Carolina.

Carl's passion for broadcasting became one of his greatest legacies. In 1982, he and Lisa purchased Good Radio Broadcasting Corporation, and in 1983 established the current home of WDOG Radio in Allendale. Known to generations simply as "The Big Dog," Carl became one of the region's most recognizable voices, entertaining listeners daily on the beloved Chit Chat Show alongside his son, Rick. He also became the unmistakable voice of Friday night high school football, alongside his son Rick and more recently his grandson Raleigh. He will forever be known for bringing excitement and hometown pride to countless broadcasts throughout the Lowcountry.

His dedication to community service earned him numerous honors, including being named Allendale County Citizen of the Year, South Carolina Economic Ambassador for Allendale County, the Outstanding Commitment to Economic Development Award, and many other civic and business recognitions. In 2024, he received South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the state.

Outside of public service, Carl cherished the outdoors. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and golfer who loved the beauty of the Lowcountry. Whether spending time on the water, in the woods, or on the golf course with his HOBOS golfing buddies, Carl treasured fellowship and friendship as much as competition.

More than any title or accomplishment, Carl will be remembered for his warm personality, quick wit, generous spirit, and genuine love for people. His impact on Allendale County will continue to be felt for generations through the lives he touched, the opportunities he helped create, and the community he loved so dearly.

Carl leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife of more than sixty years, Lisa Bell Gooding; his son, Charles "Rick" Gooding, and daughter-in-law, Rebecca; his grandchildren, Ashley Davis (Carey) and Raleigh Freeman; his great-grandson, Harbor Davis; his brothers, Gene Gooding (Susan) and Woodrow "Woody" Gooding (Beth); his brother-in-law, Charles "Chuck" Bell, Jr.; three nephews, one niece, a host of great nephews and nieces, a family friend Edward Lee Sanders, and a host of extended family members, lifelong friends, and countless listeners whose lives were enriched by knowing him.

Carl's life was one of purpose, service, and faith. Though he will be deeply missed, his legacy will live on in the family he loved the community he faithfully served, and the countless memories shared by all who had the privilege of knowing "The Big Dog". May he rest in eternal peace.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN M.
RHODES**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Major General John M. Rhodes on his retirement after more than 36 years of distinguished service to the United States Army and the Mississippi National Guard. Throughout his military career, Major General Rhodes demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to serving our Nation.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Touro University, and the United States Army War College, he held numerous command and leadership positions, including Commanding General of the 29th Infantry Division, Assistant Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, and most recently, Special Assistant to the Director, Army National Guard for 18th Airborne Corps Matters.

Major General Rhodes' retirement marks the culmination of a remarkable career defined by service and sacrifice. From leading soldiers during Operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Spartan Shield to mentoring the next generation of military leaders, his contributions have strengthened both the Mississippi National Guard and the United States Army. His exemplary service has been recognized with numerous military decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal. Beyond his military career, he has also faithfully served the people of Mississippi as General Manager of the City of Corinth Gas and Water Department.