

## 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.

As Major General Rhodes begins this well-earned retirement, we thank him for his decades of faithful service, steadfast leadership, and unwavering dedication to our Nation.

Major General Rhodes' commitment to service exemplifies the very best of the United States Army and the Mississippi National Guard. I congratulate him on an extraordinary career and wish him and his family every success in the years ahead.

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HONORING DANNY REYNOLDS OF  
STEPHENSON'S OF ELKHART

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**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 13, 2026*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Danny Reynolds of Stephenson's of Elkhart, who will be named the 2026 America's Retail Champion on July 15 at the NRF Retail Advocates Summit here in Washington, DC. Danny Reynolds is a name known to just about every family in Elkhart County.

For decades, he has helped fit local residents for life's biggest moments, and he's done it with the kind of personal touch you only find on Main Street.

The Stephenson's story goes back to 1931, when the store first opened as a small, appointment-only dress shop in downtown Elkhart. Today, nearly a century later, it has grown into a fixture spanning three buildings, still rooted in that same stretch of Main Street where it all began.

Danny's own story with the business started young. His parents took over Stephenson's in 1964, and Danny was practically raised in the stockroom, learning the trade from the ground up as a teenager. I have to think that's also where he picked up his sense of style, which I can personally attest to, having picked up clothing from Stephenson's myself.

After finishing college in 1994, he came back home and never left, building on his family's legacy one customer at a time for more than thirty years since.

But Danny's impact reaches well beyond downtown Elkhart. He has become a leading voice for retailers across this industry in the halls of Congress, helping connect policymakers with the realities of Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses like Stephenson's are the heartbeat of our communities and the backbone of our local economies. With 36.2 million small businesses across this country accounting for nearly half of all private-sector jobs, their impact reaches every corner of America, and Danny Reynolds is a shining example of what makes Main Street work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Danny Reynolds on being named the 2026 America's Retail Champion, and in thanking him for his decades of service to Elkhart County and to Hoosiers across Indiana's 2nd District.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE  
TO SUSIE BEATRICE WEST  
FRANCIS

**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 heralded educators and community activists, Susie Beatrice West Francis. Not only was she a beloved mother, wife and sister, but she was dearly loved and respected by the community. She gave of herself selflessly, always there to lend advice and a helping hand.

Susie Beatrice West Francis' teaching career started at D.A. Dorsey Junior-Senior High, where she taught home economics to black students. After desegregation, she taught at Westview Middle School. She was known for her elegance, poise and signature white gloves.

Mrs. Francis, along with Maude K. Reid and Mayme E. Williams founded The Links Greater Miami Chapter. The volunteer organization helps in civic, corporate and community initiatives. As a Link and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Mrs. Francis raised funds for charity, helped establish scholarships for students, took care of the homeless and helped provide for mothers in need in other countries.

Mrs. Francis was married to the late Daniel Francis who was the editor of the Miami Tropical Dispatch, a weekly newspaper for the black community distributed in Overtown. They have one daughter, DanySu F. Pritchett. Mrs. Francis was born in Jacksonville to a father who was a barber and a mother who was a seamstress. Mrs. Francis was raised in Tampa along with seven siblings.

She attended Florida A&M University where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in education.

I recognize my Soror and Link sister, Susie Beatrice West Francis, and I am honored to pay tribute to her life and legacy. I thank her for her unwavering dedication and commitment to her students and this community.

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RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK  
SUPERINTENDENT CAM SHOLLY

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**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 13, 2026*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service of Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly, a man who has demonstrated unwavering dedication to preserving and protecting America's best idea, our National Park system.

Cam Sholly is the son of a career National Park Service employee. He grew up hiking, fishing, camping and learning in our parks, to include attending elementary school in Crater National Park, middle school in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and graduated high school a Gardiner Bruin in Yellowstone National Park. This upbringing shaped a deep love for public lands and America's great outdoors.

Truly born for the National Park Service, Cam started his career in 1990 working in Yellowstone's backcountry before serving as Chief of Ranger Operations at Yosemite National Park, Deputy Associate Director and later Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection at the National Park Service, Superintendent of Natchez Trace Parkway, and Regional Director for the NPS Midwest Region, overseeing 61 national park units across 13 states before returning to Montana and being chosen to lead Yellowstone National Park as Superintendent in 2018.

Cam's experience and deep knowledge of our National Parks molded him into the perfect leader Yellowstone needed through several of the park's most significant challenges since its founding in 1872. Cam led park operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and unlike many public lands managers, Cam made the call to keep the park open. With the pandemic limiting activities worldwide, Americans sought outdoor destinations. Yellowstone National Park hosted 3.8 million visits in 2020 and a record-breaking 4.8 million visits in 2021, while working to provide millions of visitors with a safe experience.

Cam's greatest challenge, and a defining moment of his leadership, came directly after the pandemic when historic floods triggered what hydrologists described as a 500-year flood. In 2022, the flooding destroyed miles of roads, washed away bridges, triggered massive mudslides and rockslides, damaged water and wastewater systems, and completely severed the North Entrance between Gardiner, Montana, and Mammoth Hot Springs. In one of the most successful emergency recoveries in National Park history, Cam was able to reopen 93 percent of the park within 20 days and rebuild two major road corridors in only four months. This recovery not only saved the public park experience, but the surrounding Montana communities that rely on tourism. Cam's resilience in the face of adversity turned what many expected to be a years-long closure into a recovery that allowed Yellowstone to welcome millions of visitors again while rebuilding for the future.

Cam Sholly's career reflects the very best of the National Park Service and the American spirit. Through decades of dedicated service, he has protected our Nation's greatest treasures while ensuring that millions of Americans can experience the beauty and wonder of our public lands.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, it is fitting that we recognize individuals like Cam Sholly, whose commitment to conservation, public service, and the stewardship of America's great outdoors will benefit generations to come. I thank Cam Sholly for his unwavering dedication to Yellowstone National Park, the State of Montana, and the United States of America.

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RECOGNIZING MCCRAY BENSON

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**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 13, 2026*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. McCray Benson as he concludes his distinguished tenure as President