

"homeless veteran" to include veterans fleeing situations of domestic violence and other life threatening emergencies. As a result, this change will allow those veterans who find the courage and the means to leave their abusers the ability to access the benefits that should be available to all homeless veterans.

This legislation is a bipartisan common sense bill that adds no additional cost to the taxpayer. When we introduced this bill last Congress, we were able to garner 72 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. The legislation also had the support of a number of organizations including:

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

AMVETS

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

The Service Women's Action Network

The Association of the US Navy

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Veterans for Common Sense

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

By passing this bill, we will ensure that this especially vulnerable population of veterans has the chance to access benefits the Department of Veterans Affairs already provides. After fighting for our country, our veterans should never find themselves without a safe home to come back to.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN TAMIKO WRIGHT

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an active soldier, Captain Tamiko Wright.

Captain Wright is a 1996 graduate of Vicksburg High School. Upon graduating from high school, she attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. She also holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Columbia Southern University and is currently seeking an additional Masters degree in Logistics.

Captain Wright is employed by the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at Camp Shelby, Mississippi where she is the Supervisor of Production Control. Captain Wright oversees the flow of approximately 1500 work requests per month on various types of military equipment. Her additional duties at CSMS include Anti-Terrorism Officer, Assistant Safety Officer, Hazardous Waste Management Coordinator, Sexual Harassment Officer, Assistant Operating Manager and SAMS-1E training officer.

Captain Wright and her husband, Larry Wright, reside in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and have two lovely daughters: Amari, 7 years old and Lorrie, 2 years old.

Captain Wright has dedicated over 12 years to the Mississippi Army National Guard. While doing so, she has served her country in deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom to Kuwait and served on the S1 administrative staff for Operation Clean-Up during Hurricane Katrina.

Captain Wright is presently serving as Company Commander of the 1387th Quarter Master Water Supply Company in Greenville, Mississippi. Her successful career includes: Platoon Leader for D1 367th Maintenance Company, DeKalb, Mississippi; Executive Officer, 367th Maintenance Company, Philadelphia, Mississippi; and Acting Commander of the 367th Maintenance Company.

While attending Officer Candidate School (OCS), Captain Wright was named Outstanding Graduate for excellence in academics and leadership; she also received the Erickson Award for the candidate whose overall class ranking was number 1 based on overall criteria; and the Adjutant General Award for outstanding leadership ability. She also received numerous decorations and badges: the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Device, Mississippi Longevity Medal, Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Army Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an active soldier, Captain Tamiko Wright.

#### HONORING MAJOR GENERAL CARROLL THACKSTON

#### HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of a remarkable public servant, my friend Major General Carroll Thackston, of South Boston in Virginia's 5th Congressional District.

Major General Thackston had a distinguished military career spending six years in the United States Army and 35 years in the Virginia National Guard, where he served as inspector general, commander of the 116th Support Battalion, state military personnel officer, chief of staff, assistant adjutant general, and adjutant general following his 1994 appointment by Governor George Allen.

As adjutant general, he provided encouraging words as he visited Virginia National Guard members; he helped those in need as he engaged in state emergency response operations; and he provided leadership as he oversaw the transition of Virginia National Guard operations to Fort Pickett.

The recipient of two Virginia Distinguished Service Medals, Major General Thackston will be remembered for his unwavering loyalty and true devotion to serving and protecting his fellow Virginians.

In addition to his role as a highly respected military veteran, Major General Thackston was also known for his service to his local community. He was a member of the South Boston Town Council and served as Mayor of South Boston. He also served on several boards including the Halifax County Chamber of Commerce, the Richmond and South Boston United Way, the South Boston School Board, and the YMCA.

Major General Thackston was a dear friend and he will be missed by our community. I ask

my colleagues to join me in remembering a great Virginian and a truly dedicated public servant who not only made an impression on the lives of those of us in the Fifth District, but a man who made a difference in the lives of all Virginians.

#### SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER (VOTING RIGHTS ACT) BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

#### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, the struggle for equality and justice through the Civil Rights Movement would not have attained its level of success without dedicated leaders such as Rosa Parks, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., and my colleague, Representative John Lewis who put their lives on the line to make it so.

So here we are, nearly 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Supreme Court heard *Shelby County v. Holder*, the outcome of which holds the possibility of setting our nation back centuries.

Much of the debate regarding Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has been focused on the plight of the south and relevance to the southern perspective as it should. We are all too aware of the blood that was shed to demand basic human, racial equality. However, I stand here today in solidarity with my colleagues to lend a voice and perspective to this debate of Section 5 covered areas outside of Southern States. When most people think of Brooklyn, New York, a progressive mentality comes to mind. However, Brooklyn is likewise a Section 5 covered jurisdiction and historically "Brooklynites" have encountered voter discrimination tactics that has resulted in Kings County being subjected to the requirements of Section 5's preclearance rules and provisions.

In 1921, New York State enacted an English-only literacy test that remained on the books through the 1960s. During this time, New York State experienced a "Great Migration" from the South, as well as, from Puerto Rico and other areas of Latino descent. Most of these migrants lived in communities such as Harlem in Manhattan, the South Bronx, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. At that time, New York State law included a literacy test which proved difficult, if not impossible for people with educational or language barriers. Coincidentally, there were three counties in New York City with low voter turnout in the 1968 elections, due in large part to the fact that these literacy tests could not be passed. This ultimately became the reason why jurisdictions for Section 5 preclearance were extended to specific counties in New York, in particular, Brooklyn, New York.

On May 10, 1967, a federal court ruled that the hodgepodge of gerrymandered congressional districts that snaked in and out of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn were unconstitutional, in that they operated "to minimize or cancel out the voting strength of racial or political elements of the voting population, violated the recently passed Voting Rights Act and deprived one of the nation's largest and densest African-American communities the right to adequate representation.