

Donnie McMannes will officially bring his stellar public career to an end next month. His tireless efforts have improved our community, and it is with great pleasure that I express my admiration, gratitude and respect to a hometown hero and committed public servant.

Donnie was born in Houston and spent much of his childhood in the Heights area before moving with his mother to Humble in 1945 and attending Charles Bender High School, where he became a football star before graduating in 1953.

After graduating high school, he married his high school sweetheart, Georgia. He was soon drafted into the U.S. Army. His love for football continued while in the service when he played football for the Army in Germany in what was called the Rhine Conference. In 1955, his team went undefeated and won the Rhine Conference Championship.

After completing his service in the Army, Donnie returned home to Texas and to his wife, Georgia. At the age of 23, he joined the City of Houston Police Department.

For 27 years, Donnie put on the badge to protect and serve Houstonians. His long career at HPD included assignments in patrol, investigator, and narcotics. He was promoted to detective in the Burglary and Theft Division, where he served for fourteen years. After retiring from HPD, he continued his career as a Texas lawman, working ten more years for Constable Walter Rankin's Precinct One Constable Office. He is a lifetime member of what I refer to as the "Poe-leece"—a group of my friends in the Texas law enforcement community.

Donnie is the epitome of civil servant. After officially retiring from law enforcement in 1995, Donnie decided to become more actively involved in local government and ran for the position of Council Member with the City of Humble. He served on the Humble City Council for 10 years. He then decided to run for mayor in 2005 and has spent the last 10 years as its mayor.

Under his leadership, he's overseen many successful projects through the Humble City Council, including bringing the City out of debt and into a surplus. Mayor McMannes has given Humble financial flexibility and the ability to start and complete projects, noting that the projects are always "paid for by cash."

Congress could certainly stand to gain from following in Mayor McMannes' commonsense, fiscally responsible footsteps. In addition, working alongside many of his Humble-born and bred friends from the '50s, the City of Humble recently finished managing a total restoration project on the old Charles Bender High School building turning it into the new Charles Bender High School Performing Arts Center. As an alum of Charles Bender High School, this project was close to Mayor McMannes' heart, and appropriately, the new facility is immersed in important memories and milestones in Humble's rich roots.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District, I thank Mayor McMannes for his service and wish him and Georgia nothing but the best in their future endeavors.

As a resident of Humble, I can tell you that his presence in the city government will be missed. As Donnie likes to say, "I'm Texas born, Texas bred, and I'll be Texas dead right here on Main Street."

And that's just the way it is.

FBISD ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Melanie Hines of Oyster Creek Elementary on being named Fort Bend Independent School District's 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Hines has been a teacher for ten years, devoting the last two years to Oyster Creek Elementary. She prides herself on taking a special interest in each student and is dedicated to preventing achievement gaps in the classroom for all of her students. I wish Ms. Hines the best of luck in her teaching career and am thankful for teachers like her that go above and beyond for their students. Great teachers help develop future leaders.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Melanie Hines for her commitment to teaching and for earning the Fort Bend ISD 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND SERVICE OF DR. S. ALAN RAY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated servant of higher education from the state of Illinois, Dr. S. Alan Ray. In June, Dr. Ray will conclude his service as President of Elmhurst College.

During his tenure as President, Dr. Ray has been an exemplary leader and servant of Elmhurst College. He created the first comprehensive strategic planning process in the school's history. The Elmhurst College Strategic Plan 2009–2014 clarified and systemized the College's core values and beliefs and charted a course for the College's institutional growth during those years. He has since created a second strategic plan, with the help of the school's trustees, to lay out the groundwork for academic and institutional growth through the year 2020. Dr. Ray's strategic vision and dedicated execution have strengthened Elmhurst College and better served countless students.

Under Dr. Ray's direction, Elmhurst College has grown significantly. It increased its full-time faculty, greatly increased its minority student population, and launched a school of professional studies, which specializes in graduate and adult education. The College has also completed construction and renovation projects, including the Elmhurst College Simulation Center at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. The simulation center is a state-of-the-art facility built to improve nurses' clinical knowledge and skills through active, hands-on clinical scenarios.

Dr. Ray's long and distinguished tenure at Elmhurst College has been a time of dynamic growth for the institution and academic excellence for its student population. Elmhurst College has solidified its place as an integral part

of our local community and an excellent place to study and receive training for a successful career.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Dr. S. Alan Ray on his seven years of service to Elmhurst College and in wishing him all the best for the new chapter on which he is about to embark.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS WITH THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE OLDER CITIZENS FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to recognize volunteers with the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program, which pairs people aged 60 and older with students for tutoring and mentorship purposes. The Foster Grandparent Program is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and has been operating at Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc. since 1997.

It is my honor to submit the names of Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program volunteers:

Irene Bailey, Lucille Baker, Minnie Baker, Betty Barker, Mary Dawson, Nelda Denninson, Shirley Gardner, Ruth Gibson, Bess Gillenwater, Ruth Hogue, Patsy King, Janie Marshall, Sheila Miller, Edith Moore, Sharon Mullins, Bonnie Olinger, Mary Rogers, Ruth Shawver, Marie Smith, Thelma Smith, Betty Stewart, and Thelma Welch.

Additionally, I would recognize Sarah Parsons for her 15 years of service, and note with sadness the passing of Aleatha Strong, who served for 7 years as a Foster Grandparent.

Mr. Speaker, I want to send my genuine thanks to folks working with and volunteering for the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Foster Grandparent Program. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these volunteers and others throughout the nation for their efforts on behalf of America's young people. Best wishes to the Foster Grandparent Program many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY PEARL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sydney Pearl, a twelve year old author from West Des Moines, Iowa.

Sydney, a student at Stilwell Junior High School recently completed a book about holocaust survivor David Wolnerman. Mr. Wolnerman and his wife Mrs. Jennie Wolnerman are the last known living holocaust survivors in Central Iowa. I applaud Sydney's effort to preserve their story in her book *A Lucky Lie*.

This book is an oral history of Mr. Wolnerman during his time in Nazi concentration camps and his life afterwards. The title comes from the lie Mr. Wolnerman told long ago in 1940, about his age as he was entering

the concentration camp. By claiming he was 18, when he was only 13, he narrowly avoided being sent to the gas chamber. Mr. Wolnerman believes God allowed him to make that choice and ultimately it helped him survive. Sydney, through her words, was able to pass along his message for others to hear. The tragedy of the holocaust must never be forgotten.

Sydney was encouraged to write the book by the Jewish Federation and A Book by Me, an Illinois company that taps children to tell stories of Jewish survivors. Her book passes down the oral history of David Wolnerman for other children nationwide.

I congratulate Sydney Pearl for writing this book and for preserving the history of those that survived the horrors of the Holocaust during the Second World War. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Sydney Pearl and wishing her many successes in the future.

HONORING ALLAN LEE
McCROSKY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of my friend Allan Lee McCroskey of Roanoke County, who went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

Allan served our nation in the United States Air Force during Vietnam. In spite of his service-related ailments, Allan was always quick to greet you with a smile. He went on to serve as Commander for the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Virginia (2012–2013). In fact, Allan was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, and was a Disabled American Veterans National Service Officer. He also was retired from the Veterans Administration.

Not only did Allan serve our nation, he actively served the community as well. He was Assistant Scout Master and Board Member of the Blue Ridge Council of Boy Scouts of America, and received the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, and the James E. West Fellowship Award. He also was a member of the Scouting Heritage Society.

Additionally, Allan was board member for Climbing Higher Ministries of Lynchburg and Combining Chapters of the DAV. He also was a member of Living Water Christian Church and Cave Spring Masonic Lodge #230.

Allan was preceded in death by his father, Richard L. McCroskey; his stepmother, Agnes McCroskey; his mother, Virginia Johnson McCroskey; his loving wife of 37 years, Reatha Tuck McCroskey; and his second wife of eight years, Linda Perkins McCroskey; his sons, Matthew David and Stephen Paul McCroskey; and his brother, Richard F. McCroskey. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Anne McCroskey of Goodview; his brother, Michael E. McCroskey of Mechanicsville; and his sister, Carolyn S. Wallace of Colonial Heights.

Known for his exceptional goodwill and dedication to the United States military, veterans, and our community, I am honored to

pay tribute to this man's many contributions. My thoughts and prayers go out to Allan's family and loved ones. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 174 and 175, I could not be present to vote on the House Floor as I was in my district attending the funeral of a former member of my staff. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on both roll call votes.

CONGRATULATING MR. BEN
TALLEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to congratulate Mr. Ben Talley, a science teacher at Van Pelt Elementary School in Bristol, Virginia, on being inducted into the 2015 National Teachers Hall of Fame.

Education is important to the Ninth Congressional District and the future of our nation. Mr. Talley has 24 years of teaching experience, and has been awarded the prestigious McGlothlin Award for Teaching Excellence, the Bristol Mayors' Award of Distinction, a Rotary Outstanding Teacher, and Virginia Teacher of the Year.

In addition to teaching at Van Pelt Elementary School, Mr. Talley teaches GED courses at the Bristol Virginia Jail. He has also written several books, including his 2007 book entitled "The Game My Father Taught Me."

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Mr. Ben Talley on his remarkable accomplishments and, on behalf of many in the Ninth District, thank him for all he has done for our area. Best wishes for many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SURFACE WATER STORAGE STREAMLINING ACT OF 2015

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Bureau of Reclamation Surface Water Storage Streamlining Act of 2015. This important and desperately needed legislation would streamline the Bureau of Reclamation's environmental planning and study process for new surface water storage projects. It would accomplish this by applying the same streamlined water project development process used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2014 to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in order to fa-

cilitate the construction of new dams and reservoirs.

Water is the lifeblood of communities in the arid West and the current water shortage crisis devastating much of the Western United States highlights the critical need for water supply to grow with demand. A streamlined process for new water storage projects is vital to prepare effectively for drought and to provide adequate water resources for future development. This bill allows forward-thinking improvements to the Bureau of Reclamation's permitting process to create new opportunities for water storage. Put simply, this legislation will reform the current cumbersome and lengthy process so that there is a mechanism to build new surface water storage projects in the West.

I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation and I urge its swift passage.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD LANGLEY
SETTLE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of my friend Richard Langley Settle, who passed away on April 16, 2015.

Richard served our nation in the United States Air Force Communications Service at the Pentagon. He graduated from Russell County Public Schools, and went on to attend Clinch Valley College.

He was a 31-year employee of Verizon Virginia, and had an immense knowledge of telecommunications and legislative history. Richard left the company in 2003, having started as a pole climber and worked his way up to Southwest Area Manager of External Affairs. He was President of Settle Associates, a consulting group specializing in business development, telecommunications, government relations, and economic development.

Richard is well known for his public service, having served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Russell County Board of Supervisors. He also served as a member of the Foundation Boards of both the Mountain Empire Community College and The University of Virginia—Wise. In 2003, he was the honoree of the Mountain Empire Community College Hall of Honor.

Further, Richard worked tirelessly to encourage economic development in Southwest Virginia. Appointed by three Governors, Richard served the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority as Chair and Vice-Chair. He attended the 2001 Economic Summit in Tokyo, Japan as a special envoy of Virginia, and was also appointed to the Virginia Workforce Council.

Richard was appointed by the General Assembly of Virginia as a non-legislative member of the Southwest Economic Development Commission. He also was a charter member of the Southwest Virginia Technology Council, and was honored with a lifetime membership. Additionally, Richard served as a member of the Board of Directors of Virginia Economic Bridge, and held several advisory board positions for privately held companies.

He was involved in additional public service work and charitable work, having served as a