

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 MCCROSKEY

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